

PRESS RELEASE

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The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of joint control of IFW Globe by Sofindev and Benlen

On 27 February 2025, the Belgian Competition Authority (“BCA”) approved the acquisition of joint control of IFW Globe by Sofindev and Benlen.

The concentration was notified on 19 February 2025 and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

Sofindev is an investment company specialised in private equity investments in the capital of small and medium-sized companies in the Benelux. Sofindev has built up experience in various sectors such as digitally driven business services, service and trading companies that form a link in the logistics and supply chain of various sectors (food, pharmaceutical, construction, etc.) and niche companies in the manufacturing industry.

Benlen is the management company of two natural persons and currently owns the majority of the shares of IFW Globe.

IFW Globe is a holding company that directly holds 100% of the shares of Shipex and VDH Forwarding. Shipex and VDH Forwarding, as freight forwarders, organise freight transport for import and export.

In its decision of 27 February 2025, the BCA found that the conditions for the application of the simplified procedure were met and that the notified concentration did not raise any objections.

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The Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) is an independent administrative authority that contributes to the definition and implementation of competition policy in Belgium. Concretely, the BCA pursues anti-competitive practices, such as cartels and abuses of a dominant position, and reviews the main merger operations. The BCA cooperates with the other competition authorities of the member states of the European Union and the European Commission within the European Competition Network (ECN)