Belgian Competition Authority

PRESS RELEASE

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The Belgian Competition Authority approves the acquisition of sole control over Vivaqua by the Brussels-Capital Region

On 8 October 2026, the Belgian Competition Authority ("BCA") approved the acquisition of Vivaqua by the Brussels-Capital Region.

The concentration was notified on 24 September 2026, and the application of the simplified procedure was requested.

The Brussels-Capital Region is a regional public authority with legal personality and exercises a number of powers conferred upon it by law, including environmental and water management responsibilities. The Region carries out its water management activities through Hydria, a public limited company responsible for the collection and treatment of wastewater and rainwater. To this end, it manages several stormwater retention basins as well as part of the collector network within the territory of the Brussels-Capital Region.

Vivaqua is a cooperative company wholly owned by public authorities. Its activities as the operator of the water cycle in the Brussels-Capital Region are fully governed by Article 17(1) of the Ordinance of 20 October 2006 establishing a framework for water policy (the "Water Framework Ordinance"), which entrusts it with the abstraction and production of drinking water, the distribution of drinking water, the management of the sewerage and collector network, and the management of stormwater retention basins.

The activities of the parties concerned take place within a highly regulated framework for water management in the Brussels-Capital Region, characterised by the presence of legal and natural monopolies. The proposed transaction enables an organisational simplification of wastewater management within the territory of the Brussels-Capital Region.

In its decision of 8 October 2026, 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).