



Legal latest

Competition, EU and Regulatory news bulletin

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CCPC's Mergers & Acquisitions Report 2017

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (the "CCPC") has published its Mergers & Acquisitions Report for 2017, which details the CCPC's merger review activity during 2017.

Key highlights include:

- There was a 7.5% increase in merger notifications to the CCPC in 2017. 72 mergers were notified in total.
- Motor fuel (retail / wholesale) and information and communications were the most prominent sectors. Real estate and financial and insurance services also featured strongly.
- No proposed transactions were prohibited.
- On average, over the course of 2017, the CCPC took 24 working days to issue a Phase 1 Determination – a reduction of 2 days on the 2016 figure. The timelines in individual cases that did not raise serious concerns varied from 12 to 29 working days depending, for example on the complexity of the transaction and the nature of the competition issues involved.
- Nine proposed transactions required an extended Phase 1 investigation. Determinations were made in respect of seven out of the nine extended Phase 1 investigations within a time period ranging from 50 to 85 working days, while the remaining two are still under investigation.
- Formal commitments were required for the clearance of four proposed transactions as follows:
 1. Kantar Media / Newsaccess;
 2. Applegreen / 50% of Joint Fuels Terminal;
 3. Dalata / Clarion Liffey Valley / Clayton Cardiff Lane; and
 4. Sean Loughnane / Crinkle Fine Foods.
- Four media mergers were notified as follows:
 1. The Color Company TM / Certain assets of Irish TV;
 2. Landmark Digital / BenchWarmers;
 3. Bay Broadcasting / Classic Rock Broadcasting t/a Radio Nova; and
 4. Irish Times / Irish Examiner.
- Through its market surveillance, the CCPC became aware of a proposed transaction whereby Kantar Media was intending to purchase Newsaccess Limited. Although the proposed transaction fell below the financial thresholds for a mandatory notification to the CCPC, the CCPC were concerned that Kantar Media would be removing its closest and most substantial competitor. Following engagement with the CCPC, the parties made a voluntary notification to the CCPC.

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