



MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT - M/19/009

Competition and Consumer Protection Commission clears proposed acquisition by Mediahuis N.V. of sole control of Independent News & Media Public Limited Company.

10 June 2019

On 10 June 2019, the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (“the Commission”) cleared the proposed transaction, whereby Mediahuis N.V. would acquire sole control of Independent News & Media Public Limited Company. The proposed transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002, as amended (“the Act”) on 7 May 2019. Given that Independent News & Media Public Limited Company carries on a “media business” within the State and Mediahuis N.V. carries on a “media business” elsewhere, the proposed transaction constitutes a “media merger” for the purposes of Part 3A of the Act. The Commission has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State and, accordingly, that the acquisition may be put into effect subject to the provisions of section 28C(1) of the Act.

The Commission will publish the reasons for its determination on its website no later than 60 working days after the date of the determination and after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information be removed from the published version.

Additional Information

Mediahuis N.V. is a privately owned European newspaper publishing and broadcast media company, incorporated and headquartered in Belgium. Mediahuis N.V. is engaged in: (i) publishing daily news titles throughout Belgium and the Netherlands (none of which are in the English language); (ii) broadcasting a number of Dutch and French language TV and radio stations in Belgium; (iii) providing printing and distribution services in the Netherlands; and (iv) providing advertising services for all of Mediahuis N.V.’s print and online brands in Belgium.

Independent News & Media Public Limited Company, a public limited company incorporated in the State and listed on the Irish and London Stock Exchanges, is a newspaper and media group. Independent News & Media Public Limited Company is engaged in: (i) newspaper publishing - IN&M publishes a range of daily and Sunday newspapers; (ii) on-line news services - as well as offering advertising through its newspapers and online news services; (iii) newspaper contract printing; and (iv) wholesaling and distribution of newspapers and stationery, and the provision of merchandising solutions.