

The CNMC cleared nine mergers in December

- Seven were approved in the first phase without commitments.
- [Wedding Planner-Zankyou Ventures](#) and [KKR-IVI](#) were cleared in the first phase but were subject to commitments due to competition concerns.

Madrid, 19 January 2023. The National Commission on Markets and Competition (CNMC) approved nine concentrations in the first phase of the merger control procedure in December 2022. Two of them, [Wedding Planner - Zankyou Ventures](#) and [KKR-IVI](#), were cleared subject to a number of commitments.

The affected sectors included telecommunications and web portals, manufacture of chemical products, funeral services, the paper industry, health care activities, and financial and education services.

International Chemical Investors acquires sole control of Alkaline

[\(C/1355/22 ICIG/ALKALINE\)](#)

International Chemical Investors S.E. is a privately owned industrial group incorporated in Luxembourg, active in fine chemicals, chlorovinyls, fermentation products, viscose filament, activated carbon, and wood protection chemicals.

Alkaline S.A.S. is a French company with two production sites: a sodium metal plant and a plant for sodium methylate obtained by deprotonation of methanol. In addition, it has a sodium terminal in the United States.

The concentration was cleared in the first phase of the merger control procedure as it does not pose a threat to competition in the markets, given that in Spain it does not lead to horizontal or vertical overlaps in most products. It could lead to an overlap in chlorine by-products, but of minor importance.

Tanatorios de Córdoba acquires sole control of Funeraria y Tanatorio Kiko's assets in Cabra (Córdoba)

[\(C/1353/22 TANATORIOS DE CORDOBA/FUNERARIA Y TANATORIOS KIKO\)](#)

INTERNAL

Tanatorios de Córdoba S.A. is a company providing funeral services, including mortuary, crematorium and cemetery services. It carries out these activities in the province of Córdoba, through its funeral parlour and crematorium facilities. The company is jointly controlled by ASC-FUNESER and Albia. Both parent companies belong to business groups active in funeral insurance and are vertically related to the acquired company.

Funeral Kiko S.L. provides funeral services in the town of Cabra (Córdoba).

The transaction affects the market for funeral services, where the parties' activities overlap horizontally, and the market for funeral insurance.

In the market for funeral services, the operation hardly alters competition, while in the retail market for comprehensive funeral services, the addition is negligible. In the wholesale funeral home market there is no overlap, only a change of operator.

As regards vertical reinforcement, given the share of the resulting entity in the funeral insurance market and the presence of another competitor with funeral facilities, the ability to harm competitive conditions would be limited.

Domtar Corporation acquires sole control of Resolute Forest Products

[\(C/1351/22 DOMTAR CORPORATION/RESOLUTE FOREST PRODUCTS INC\)](#)

Domtar Corporation is a US subsidiary of Paper Excellence. Paper Excellence is a Canadian company active in the manufacture of pulp and paper, which it also markets in Spain.

Resolute Forest Products INC. is a Canadian company active in five business areas: pulp, tissue, wood products, paper, and energy. In Spain, Resolute markets pulp and paper products.

The transaction gives rise to a horizontal overlap in the relevant market for fluff pulp in Spain, significantly reducing the aggregate market share in the European Economic Area (EEA), which is the relevant geographic area. Here the overlap between the parties' activities is minimal and there are sufficient players with the ability to compete. Moreover, this is a mature market, with excess installed capacity and no significant barriers to entry.

On the other hand, there are vertical overlaps in the upstream markets for fluff pulp and recycled pulp, but with low market shares. Given the parties' position in

INTERNAL

these markets and the wide geographic scope, their vertical relationships should not pose a risk to competition.

Korian acquires sole control of Grupo 5

[\(C/1352/22 KORIAN/GRUPO 5\)](#)

Korian S.E. is the parent company of the French business group Korian, which operates in seven European countries. In Spain, it focuses on care for the elderly and mental health disorders.

Specifically, it has privately owned mental health centres and care centres for the elderly, which take in both private and public patients.

Grupo 5 provides services to socially vulnerable people. It has private centres providing mental health care services and manages publicly owned centres providing care services for the elderly and social services for the socially excluded.

The transaction leads to an overlap in private psychiatric care in inpatient and outpatient services for private patients with free choice of provider in Madrid and Saragossa. In the provision of private psychiatric care to public patients, the overlap occurs only in Madrid. However, the resulting market shares are moderate.

On the other hand, there is no overlap in the provision of social-health services for the elderly or in the provision of social services for people at risk of social exclusion.

The shares resulting from the operation in the different markets mentioned are moderate and there is competitive pressure from other operators.

Global Payments acquires sole control of EVO Payments

[\(C/1356/22 GLOBAL PAYMENTS / EVO PAYMENTS\)](#)

The transaction consists of the acquisition of sole control of EVO Payments INC. by Global Payments INC. through the merger of EVO with Falcon Merger Sub INC., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Global Payments.

Global Payments is a payment technology solutions provider offering software and services to retailers and financial institutions, primarily acquiring business solutions — the process by which a business is enabled to charge multiple credit or debit cards — and payment processing.

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Evo Payments is a US corporation that provides merchant acquiring services (from micro-enterprises to large multinationals) and payment processors, including physical and virtual POS (point-of-sale) terminals.

The transaction affects the markets for merchant acquiring, POS provision and management, and e-commerce payment acceptance, especially at the national level. In all three markets and possible sub-segmentations, the resulting entity strengthens its market shares, but the additions are insignificant and minor at the European Economic Area (EEA) level. In addition, there are competitors capable of offering the same services in a dynamic industry without significant barriers to entry.

CCP, CCFV and DNASE acquire joint control of Kids Holding through Especarita

[\(C/1357/22 ESPECARITA / KIDS HOLDING\)](#)

Through the transaction, Especarita XXI S.L.U. (and its parent company, CCP Nº4.2. Limited), Corpfin Capital Fund V FCR, and De Nadal a Sant Esteve S.L. have acquired joint control of CCFIV Kids Holding SL and its subsidiaries.

Especarita Espe is a Spanish real estate company active in the purchase, sale, rental and development of plots, land and properties, as well as their construction and disposal. It is wholly owned by CCP, a UK company which operates in the financial services sector as a holding company and whose business is the holding of stocks and shares.

Corpfin Capital Fund V FCR (CCFV) is a venture capital fund, whose management company is Corpfin Capital Asesores S.A.

From Nadal to Sant Esteve (DNASE) is a company whose corporate purpose and activities comprise the holding, administration and management of business activities and its investee companies, as well as the provision of advisory and management services in these companies.

Kids Holding is a Spanish company which, under the trade name Kids & Us, is active in the teaching of English, in particular in the marketing and licensing of teaching methods and systems and their licences.

The CNMC considers that the transaction will not alter the competitive structure of the affected market, given the absence of horizontal overlaps or vertical relationships.

INTERNAL

Terma A/S acquires a business branch of Atos' Unidad de Negocio EGSE

[\(C/1358/22 TERMA/UNIDAD DE NEGOCIO EGSE DE ATOS\)](#)

Therm A/S is a company based in Lystrup, Denmark, which in Spain develops technology and engineering solutions for the aerospace, defence and security industries through four business lines: aeronautics, surveillance and mission systems, space and support services.

EGSE business unit operates through four companies belonging to the Atos Group, which form an integrated suite of electrical test solutions for satellites, aimed at ensuring that radio frequency subsystems, navigation and Earth observation instruments, as well as the satellite's vital power, function perfectly in orbit.

The transaction does not pose a threat to effective competition in the markets, as it does not lead to horizontal or vertical overlaps in Spain.

Mergers approved subject to commitments

Wedding Planner acquires Zankyou

[\(C/1318/22\)](#)

The CNMC has authorised, subject to compliance with a number of commitments, the purchase of Zankyou by Wedding Planner ([press release](#)).

KKR acquires IVI

[\(C/1321/22\)](#)

The CNMC has authorised, in the first phase and subject to commitments, the acquisition of IVI, the leading assisted reproductive technology company in Spain, by KKR, a multinational private equity and venture capital management company ([press release](#)).

Related content:

- Press release (14/12/2022): [The CNMC cleared six mergers in November.](#)
- Press release (11/01/2023): [The CNMC approves with commitments the purchase of Zankyou by Wedding Planner.](#)
- Press release (16/01/2023): [The CNMC approves KKR's acquisition of IVI, subject to commitments](#)
- Blog (25/04/2017): [At the CNMC we monitor mergers.](#)

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