

The CNMC cleared ten mergers in March

- Of all the transactions, nine were approved in the first phase of the merger control procedure without commitments, as they did not raise competition concerns in their respective markets.
- The QSI/WPT merger was approved in the first phase but subject to commitments.

Madrid, 9 April 2024.- The Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) approved ten mergers in March. Nine of them were approved in the first phase of the merger control procedure without commitments and one was approved in the first phase but subject to commitments.

Luxaviation Participations and ACA acquired joint control over Skyvalet.

[C/1445/24 LUXAVATION PARTICIPATIONS-ACA HOLDING/SKY VALET SPAIN](#)

Luxaviation, present in Spain through its subsidiary Execujet Spain SL, is active in the provision of airport ground handling services for general aviation in Spain at the airports of Barcelona, Ibiza, Gerona and Valencia.

ACA provides airport services directly and indirectly by operating airport infrastructures under concession at several French airports for general aviation. It also already had sole control over Skyvalet.

Skyvalet provides airport ground handling services for general aviation at the airports of Barcelona, Ibiza, Gerona, Valencia, Madrid, Palma de Mallorca, La Coruña, Santiago de Compostela and Malaga. In addition, it operates and manages private airport terminals, also known as fixed-base operations under concession, at the airports of Ibiza, Barcelona and Madrid.

The merged entity will be the fourth largest handling operator at the national level, with a significantly lower market share than the market leader, Mallorcair, and close to other major competitors such as United Aviation and General Aviation Service.

The transaction leads to horizontal overlaps in airport ground handling services for general aviation at the airports of Barcelona, Valencia, Ibiza and Gerona, all of which are served by one or more of the above-mentioned major competitors. Furthermore, Skyvalet is present in the market for the management and operation of fixed-base operations (FBOs) at Madrid, Barcelona and Ibiza airports.

Although there is a vertical overlap between the market for FBO management and ground handling services at some airports, the CNMC considers that the impact on competition is not significant, as the expansion of the resulting entity's capacity to provide FBO services should be minimal.

In view of the above, the notified transaction is not likely to hinder effective competition in the relevant markets.

Global Zújar and A. Pérez acquired joint control of Global Verona

C/1447/24 GLOBAL ZÚJAR- A. PÉREZ/ GLOBAL VERONA

Global Zújar is a group of companies managing investments in different sectors, mainly in real estate but also in logistics and industrial activities.

Á. Pérez is a Spanish company that operates in the maritime sector, providing support services to shipping companies. More specifically, it provides ship consignment services, line representation and ancillary services for both cargo and passenger ships (cruise ships, yachts, etc.).

Global Verona is active in the provision of storage services for empty freight containers in the port of Barcelona. It also provides cleaning and heating services for isotanks in Cartagena, Martorell, Mérida, Seseña and Tarragona.

The merger does not give rise to overlaps between the acquiring and acquired companies and is therefore not expected to lead to significant changes in the market structure.

Glacier Acquisitions Designated Activity Company (Glacier) acquired sole control of Asociación de Industrias Alicantinas de Helado y Derivados (Alacant Group)

C/1449/24 GLACIER/GRUPO ALACANT

Glacier is a company engaged in the acquisition, holding, management, financing, transfer and disposal of financial assets, registered in Ireland and controlled by **DK**, which also manages a number of operations in Spain. These

include Gelato d'Italia, which operates in the market for the manufacture and wholesale of ice cream, albeit with a negligible presence, and the Cerealto Siro Group, which operates in the market for the manufacture and sale of cereal-based products and specialises in biscuits, breakfast cereals, snacks and pasta.

The **Alacant Group** is a company formed by 35 artisan ice cream makers who produce ice cream for wholesale distribution to supermarkets, ice cream parlours and small independent establishments. In Spain, it manufactures own-brand ice cream. Additionally and to a lesser extent, it manufactures and markets through third parties and distributors its own brands and manufacturer's branded products for third parties.

The merger does not pose a threat to effective competition in the markets, since it only leads to marginal horizontal overlaps in the market for the manufacture and wholesale of store-brand ice cream, where the acquirer's presence is negligible. It also does not give rise to any significant vertical overlaps or portfolio effects.

Luxida S.L. (Luxida) acquired sole control of Luz Eléctrica Morales S.L.

[C/1450/24 LUXIDA/LUZ ELÉCTRICA MORALES](#)

Luxida is a Spanish holding company whose corporate purpose is the acquisition and holding of shares in companies operating as generators, distributors and marketers in the electricity sector in Spain.

Luz Eléctrica Morales is a company engaged in the distribution of electricity in the municipality of Los Molares (Seville), where it has a market share of 100%.

The merger does not give rise to significant overlaps between the acquiring and acquired companies. Therefore, the CNMC considers that it will not introduce significant changes in the market structure.

Mémora acquired sole control of the funeral assets of Tanatorio La Soledad

[C/1455/24 MÉMORA/ TANATORIO LA SOLEDAD](#)

Mémora is a company dedicated to the provision of comprehensive funeral services in Spain and Portugal. Since 2023, it is under the control of Grupo Catalana Occidente S.A., the parent company of a group of companies present in the insurance sector (including death insurance) and the provision of funeral services.

Tanatorio La Soledad is a company active in the provision of comprehensive funeral services in Spain, operating a funeral parlour with three wake rooms and a crematorium in Medina del Campo (Valladolid).

Given the absence of overlaps or small additions and the acquirer's discrete presence in the vertically related market, the CNMC considers that the transaction is not likely to lead to significant changes in the current market structure.

EasyPark Group AS (Easypark) acquired sole control of Mobility 1 SAS

[C/1453/24 EASYPARK/ MOBILITY 1 SAS](#)

Easypark provides mobility service solutions, including parking solutions and connected services to businesses, consumers and public and private parking managers.

Mobility 1 SAS is the ultimate parent company of Flowbird, a globally active operator in the urban mobility industry providing mobility services, including parking charging and management, as well as solutions for electric vehicle charging, shared mobility and public transport. Flowbird is particularly active in the production and sale of parking charging equipment, systems and services.

The concentration does not give rise to significant overlaps and is therefore not expected to lead to significant changes in the market structure and competitive dynamics.

Basic-Fit International, B.V. (Basic-Fit) acquired sole control of RSG GROUP ESPAÑA S.L. (RSG)

[C/1451/24 BASIC FIT/ RSG SPAIN](#)

Basic-Fit is a listed company with a strong and growing chain of gyms in Europe. It has 150 gyms only in Spain.

RSG operates a network of 47 gyms and sports centres in Spain under the McFit and Holmes Place brands, all of which are managed directly by RSG. The company also offers a wide range of fitness and wellness services.

The transaction concerns the market for the management of sports facilities, namely private gyms, both premium and non-premium. The resulting horizontal overlaps do not exceed 30% in any isochrone in the broad sports facility management market, nor do they exceed 30% in the 15-minute drive/walk isochrone in the private fitness market, except in two cases which exceed it very slightly, with a wide range of alternative competitors.

Considering a narrower segmentation, as far as the premium segment is concerned, the acquirer is not active. Therefore, Basic-Fit should occupy the competitive position previously held by RSG, without posing a competitive risk as the pre-transaction competitive market structure would not be altered.

In the non-premium segment, the merged entity's share should only exceed 30% in four acquired facilities based on the 15-minute walking time isochronous. However, there is no overlap in two of them, and in the other two, there are competitors that could exert competitive pressure.

The transaction is therefore considered not to pose any competitive risks.

Tensile-Metis Holdings S.A. (Tensile Metis) and Portobello Capital Gestión, SGEIC S.A. (Portobello) acquired joint control of Plenoil S.L.

[C/1454/24 TENSILE METIS/PORTOBELLO/ PLENOIL](#)

Tensile Metis is an investment firm based in San Francisco (United States) with no turnover in the European Union.

Portobello is a private equity fund manager whose business focuses on investing in companies in a variety of industries and markets.

Plenoil is an expanding company focused on fuel retailing through a network of service stations throughout Spain.

The merger does not give rise to overlaps between the acquiring and acquired companies and is therefore not considered to pose a threat to effective competition.

ASV Funeser S.L.U. (Funeser) acquired sole control of Funeraria La Ronda S.L.

[C/1448/24 ASV FUNESER/LA RONDEÑA](#)

Funeser provides funeral services in Spain. It has funeral parlours, crematoriums and funeral offices both privately owned and under concession in the provinces of Valencia, Alicante, Murcia, Almería, Granada, Jaén, Málaga, Cádiz, Seville and Ceuta. Funeser is wholly owned by Auto Sport y Ambulancias Sanitarias S.L.U. (Autosport). Autosport also owns 100% of the insurance company Meridiano S.A.: Cía. Española de Seguros (Meridiano).

Funeraria Rondeña provides funeral services and related activities. Specifically, it provides comprehensive funeral services in Ronda (Malaga), where it has a funeral parlour with three wake rooms and a crematorium.

As a result of the transaction, Funeser will marginally strengthen its presence in the retail market for comprehensive funeral services at the national, regional and provincial levels with a minimum increase in both volume and value.

In addition, Funeser will enter the wholesale funeral parlour and crematorium market in the municipality of Ronda (Málaga), where it was not previously present, taking over the competitive position of Funeraria Rondeña.

The horizontal effects of the operation are not of concern, since it does not significantly alter the previous competitive structure, both in the wholesale and retail markets, as it involves a change from one operator to another. In the case of the retail market, the CNMC reaches the same conclusion, as the strengthening of the acquirer is minimal.

As regards vertical reinforcement, the inclusion of the funeral facilities managed by the acquired company in Meridiano's portfolio increases the capacity of the insurer to provide intra-group funeral services to its policyholders in Ronda. However, Meridiano's share of the funeral insurance market in the province of Malaga is moderate, which limits any significant effects of the possible vertical reinforcement over the acquirer's competitors.

Nor are there any risks arising from the effects of the vertical reinforcement in the funeral insurance market, given the existence of other competitors with funeral facilities. Therefore, alternatives to the merged entity are available to customers of competing insurers.

Therefore, the CNMC considers that the transaction will not create significant risks to the competitive functioning of the market.

Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) acquired sole control of World Padel Tour (WPT)

[C/1430/23 QSI/ WPT](#)

[Press release](#)

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- [Press release](#) (27/03/2024): The CNMC authorises with commitments the purchase of World Padel Tour by Qatar Sports Investments
- [Blog](#) (29/09/2023): At the CNMC we monitor mergers between companies