

10 May 2012: Food retail

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The *Autorité de la concurrence* clears the acquisition, subject to commitments, by the Intermarché group of several independent retail outlets in the urban area of Beauvais under the brand name Intermarché.

> *Version française* 

On 4 May, the *Autorité de la concurrence* cleared – subject to commitments – the acquisition by the Intermarché group of several independent retail outlets running hypermarkets under the brand name Intermarché in and around Beauvais. These included the Intermarché stores of *Beauvais-Nord*, *Beauvais-Sud* and Goincourt, as well as a store under the brand name Netto in Beauvais.

The *Autorité* has identified competition concerns

In the Beauvais area, the *Autorité de la concurrence* has noted that the Intermarché retail chain had a substantial share of the market and only faced competition from two other retail chains as regards the Goincourt retail outlet, and three retail chains for the *Beauvais-Nord* and *Beauvais-Sud* retail outlets.

Despite the fact that the operation would not have entailed a change in brand name, as the hypermarkets in question were already tied to the Intermarché group under an affiliation agreement, the *Autorité* deemed that it removed any possibility of inter-network mobility for these independent stores and perpetuated an unsatisfactory competitive situation.

The *Autorité* has cleared the operation subject to commitments

In order to address these risks to competition the Intermarché group has committed to sell the *Beauvais-Nord* hypermarket to a competing chain, or failing which, that of *Beauvais-Sud* in order to ensure a more intense

competition for the benefit of consumers.

> Full text of Decisions 12-DCC-57 et 12-DCC-58 of 4 May 2012 will soon be published on our website.

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