Regional press: the Autorité de la concurrence clears the acquisition of the Sud Ouest group by the Rossel group (La Voix du Nord, Le Courrier Picard, l'Union, Paris Normandie)

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On 2 October 2026, the Rossel group notified the *Autorité de la concurrence* of its plan to acquire the Société bordelaise de gestion (Socibog) group. In particular, the parties operate a number of regional daily newspapers in France, including *La Voix du Nord* and *Le Courrier Picard* (Rossel group) and *Sud Ouest* and *La République des Pyrénées* (Socibog group).

In addition to the markets typically examined in the print media sector (readership and advertising), the *Autorité* analysed, for the first time, the possibility of a separate market for the purchase of journalistic services, without, however, reaching any conclusion to the question, due to the absence of any anticompetitive effects resulting from the transaction.

Following its examination, the *Autorité* ruled out any risk of harm to competition and cleared the transaction unconditionally.

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