22 September 2009: The Autorité de la concurrence authorises the acquisition of the Marie company by the LDC group

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The *Autorité de la concurrence* considers that the purchase of the Marie company by the LDC group[1], while strengthening the market shares of the LDC group on the markets for fresh catering products (appetizers, prepared dishes, savoury pies), will not be such as to threaten competition and authorises it to proceed without commitments.

While the company LDC Traiteur and the Marie group are important mass retail distribution suppliers of products intended to be sold under distributor brands, the Autorité considers that these positions are balanced by the purchasing power of the mass retail distribution sector and by the fact that other major producers respond to any requests for proposals. Moreover, the market shares of the new structure are moderate for large brand products.

Furthermore, the *Autorité de la concurrence* is continuing to examine a second operation, namely the LDC group's acquisition of the Arrivé company, which is active in the poultry markets [2].

> For murther informations, please to consult the full text of decision 09-DCC-48

[1] The Marie company is an important actor on the market of fresh and frozen food

products for the catering sector. The LDC group is primarily present in the sectors of animal feed, poultry and fresh products for the catering industry.

[2] Note of the editor: On November the 23 nd 2009, the acquisition of the corporation Arrivé by the LDC group has been authorized under the condition that some commitments are implemented. To consult decision 09-DCC-67 and its press release.