24 September 2014: Health – healthcare establishments

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The Autorité de la concurrence clears the acquisition of the clinics of Générale de Santé by Ramsay Health Care and Prédica

> ***Version française***

The European Commission has referred to the *Autorité de la concurrence*, at the purchaser's request, the review of the acquisition of joint control of Générale de Santé by Ramsay Health Care and Prédica, a Crédit Agricole subsidiary. In the diagnostics and hospital-care supply sector, Ramsay Health Care and Prédica already own a joint-venture company, Ramsay Santé, which controls 40 healthcare establishments across France.

The merger case was submitted to the *Autorité* on 20 August 2014.

The *Autorité*'s analysis led it to find that the transaction is not such that it will have a negative effect on competition. The *Autorité* clears the merger.

After a detailed review, the *Autorité* considered that there was no competition problem, in particular in Ile-de-France where Ramsay Santé owns 9 hospital-care centres and Générale de Santé owns 29 establishments.

In particular, the *Autorité* considered that distinguishing Paris proper from neighbouring départements was not relevant due to patients' significant mobility. In fact, patients from Ile-de-France often seek healthcare outside of their

département of origin.

Throughout the whole of the Ile-de-France region, the market shares of the new entity will remain moderate as it will face many operators, and notably the *Assistance publique – Hôpitaux de Paris* (Public Hospitals of Paris).

> See the full text of decision 14-DCC-141 of 24 September 2014 regarding the acquisition of joint control of Générale de Santé by Ramsay Health Care and Prédica (Crédit Agricole Group)

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