The Autorité de la concurrence clears the acquisition of Liveli daycare centres by the Grandir Group, which operates Les Petits Chaperons Rouges daycare centres

Published on February 28, 2022

Parties to the transaction

The Grandir Group has notified the *Autorité de la concurrence* of its plan to acquire Crèche Attitude, a subsidiary of the Sodexo Group.

The Grandir Group operates a network of private daycare centres under the Les Petits chaperons rouges brand. Crèche Attitude operates private daycare centres under the Liveli brand.

The markets concerned

This marks the first time that the *Autorité* has analysed the functioning of the formal childcare sector and define the relevant markets.

This sector includes childcare services provided by qualified professionals in their own homes (childminders) or in dedicated establishments (childcare facilities, or "EAJE").

During the investigation, the *Autorité* considered the existence of upstream and downstream markets.

The upstream markets concern the marketing of childcare services in private childcare facilities to third parties for the needs of their employees or their constituents and the management of EAJE on behalf of public entities.

The *Autorité* has segmented the pre-book market for childcare places in private EAJEs into three:

- the pre-book market for places in EAJEs by national private or public operators throughout the country.
- the pre-book markets for places in EAJEs by local private or public operators, who reserve places in areas corresponding to their usual place of activity.
- the pre-book markets for places in EAJEs by local and regional public authorities to supplement their public childcare service offer.

The *Autorité* has segmented the downstream childcare market into two: childcare services provided by EAJEs and childcare services provided by childminders.

Competitive analysis

At the end of its analysis, taking into account the position of the parties, the presence of numerous competitors, and the specific characteristics of the sector revealed during the investigation, the *Autorité* was able to rule out any risk of harm to competition in the markets concerned.

The *Autorité* has cleared the transaction unconditionally, as it is not likely to harm competition.

DECISION

The text of the decision will soon be published on the Autorité's website

See the merger control decisions

Contact(s)

Chloé Duretête
Communication officer
01 55 04 01 20
Contact us by e-mail