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The Autorité de la concurrence clears the acquisition of *Le Nouvel Observateur* magazine by Pierre Bergé, Xavier Niel Mr Matthieu Pigasse, who already own *Le Monde* group

> *Version française*

The Autorité de la concurrence has issued a decision clearing the acquisition of *Le Nouvel Observateur* by Pierre Bergé, Xavier Niel and Matthieu Pigasse via their joint organisation *Le Monde* Libre.

The markets in question are the press markets, and specifically the general-information magazine press. The parties involved in the transaction are:

- *Le Nouvel Observateur du Monde*, publisher of the *Le Nouvel Observateur* magazine and its associated websites;

- *Le Monde* Libre, owner of the *Le Monde* Group, which in addition to daily newspaper Le Monde and its supplements, publishes several magazines (including *Télérama*, *Courrier International*, *Le Monde Diplomatique* and *La Vie*), and operates the websites associated with these publications;

- Matthieu Pigasse also owns the company *Les Éditions Indépendantes* which publishes the magazine *Les Inrockuptibles* and its associated website.

The Autorité deemed that the transaction was unlikely to harm competition, insofar as the parties' cumulative market share is still limited across all magazine press markets. Moreover, the new entity will continue to face strong competitors

such as L'Express-Roularta, Le Point, Le Figaro, Lagardère Active, Prima Media and also Marianne.

> Full text of Decision 14-DCC-76 of 5 June 2014 will be published shortly on the Autorité de la concurrence website

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