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The Leroy Merlin / Brico Case

The Commission has decided to refer the examination of the impact of Leroy Merlin's acquisition of Brico DIY stores on their markets to the competition authorities in France, Spain and Portugal. The Commission found that the deal did not raise competition concerns in the rest of the European Union and that the three national authorities concerned were best placed to assess its impact on the distribution of DIY items in their countries. It is the first time that the Commission has referred a merger case, at their request, to more than two Member States; it has done so because of the purely local nature of the problems posed. This is in no way contrary to the proposal adopted this week to amend the Merger Regulation, in which it is proposed to make the referral procedure to and from the Commission more flexible.

Source: Commission Statement IP/02/1881, dated 13 December 2002