

Implementation of commitments: the divestiture of Completel approved

[↗](#) Press release of the French Competition Authority, December 22, 2015

On December 22, 2015, the French Competition Authority approved the Kosc consortium as purchaser of the DSL network of Numericable's former subsidiary, Completel, which Numericable had committed to divest as a remedy for its acquisition of SFR.

In its decision of October 2014, the FCA had indicated that the disappearance of Completel, a maverick that constituted the main driver of price competition on the market for fixed telephony and business communications, raised competition concerns. Numericable had therefore committed to divest Completel's DSL network to one or more players, independent from Numericable and the Altice group, one that would have sufficient financial resources and competence to exploit and develop the network.

The FCA found that the Kosc Consortium's members, namely Cofip, Kapix, Styx and OVH, fulfilled the above

conditions in light of their significant expertise in the telecom sector. The FCA mentioned, in particular, that OVH is a major player in the web-hosting market and had recently entered into the telecom market, and that Kapix and Styx are the holding companies of telecom entrepreneurs Yann de Pince and Boris Clause.

This approval falls into the ongoing supervision by the FCA of the implementation of the commitments offered by Numericable in the context of its acquisition of SFR. In this respect, the FCA is still monitoring the way that Numericable is implementing its commitments toward Bouygues Telecom for the deployment of an optical fiber network, and is looking into whether SFR and Numericable jumped the gun and started working together before obtaining clearance from the FCA.