



## Determination of the Competition Authority

**Determination No. M/03/010 of the Competition Authority, dated 26<sup>th</sup> May 2003, under Section 21 of the Competition Act, 2002**

**Notification No. M/03/010 – Acquisition by Thomas Crosbie Holdings Limited of Smurfit Communications (GB) Limited**

### **Introduction**

1. On 30th April 2003 the Competition Authority, in accordance with Section 18 (1) of the Competition Act, 2002 (“the Act”) was notified, on a mandatory basis, of a proposal whereby Thomas Crosbie Holdings Limited (TCH) would acquire the entire issued share capital of Smurfit Communications (GB) Limited (SCGB) from Smurfit Communications UK Limited. The Authority, in accordance with s.23 (1)(b) of the Act, notified the parties that it considers the transaction to be a media merger.

### **The Parties**

2. TCH is a holding company of those companies which publish the Irish Examiner, The Evening Echo, The Western People, The Sligo Weekender, The Waterford News and Star, The Kingdom, The Newry Democrat, The Nationalist and Leinster Times, The Kildare Nationalist, The Laois Nationalist and the Sunday Business Post.
3. SCGB is a subsidiary of Smurfit Communications UK Limited, which is part of the Jefferson Smurfit Group. The Jefferson Smurfit Group manufactures paper board and packaging products and has operations in Europe, Latin America and North America. SCGB publishes the Irish Post newspaper, a tabloid paper with Irish news sold in the main British cities which have a resident Irish community, Ri-Ra magazine, a free listings publication aimed at the London area and the Business Yearbook, a directory of Irish businesses in Britain. Associated companies of the Smurfit Group publish the following Irish magazines which are not connected with the transaction: Woman’s Way, U, Irish Tatler and Food & Wine.

### **Analysis**

4. There is negligible overlap between the parties’ activities. TCH publishes regional and national newspapers, which are circulated almost exclusively in Ireland. SCGB’s newspaper publication is circulated only in Britain.

### **Determination**

5. The Competition Authority, in accordance with Section 21(2) of the Competition Act, 2002, has determined that, in its opinion, the result of the proposed acquisition will not be to substantially lessen competition in markets for goods



## **Determination of the Competition Authority**

and services in the State and, accordingly, that the acquisition may be put into effect.

**For the Competition Authority**

**Terry Calvani**  
**Member of the Competition Authority**

**26<sup>th</sup> May 2003**