



## MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT

---

### Competition and Consumer Protection Commission clears proposed acquisition by Blanche Holdco S.A.R.L. of sole control of Blanchardstown Shopping Centre

28 July 2016

---

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission has today cleared the proposed transaction whereby Blanche Holdco S.A.R.L. would acquire sole control of the Blanchardstown Shopping Centre, located in Co. Dublin, and adjacent retail and office property. The proposed transaction was notified under the Competition Act 2002 on 22 June 2016.

The Commission has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not substantially lessen competition in any market for goods or services in the State. The Commission will publish the reasons for its determination on its website no later than 60 working days after the date of the determination and after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information be removed from the published version.

#### **Additional Information**

Blanche Holdco S.A.R.L. is a Luxembourg-incorporated holding company ultimately controlled by the Blackstone Group L.P., a United States-based global alternative asset manager and provider of financial advisory services. Blackstone Group L.P. operates as an investment management firm and through various investment vehicles makes private equity, real estate, credit and hedge fund investments worldwide.

The Target Assets comprise three components: (1) Blanchardstown Shopping Centre which is a two-level, enclosed shopping centre anchored by Dunnes Stores, Marks & Spencer, Primark and Debenhams; (2) two adjacent retail parks and external retail units anchored by TK Maxx, Harvey Norman, DFS, Lifestyle Sports and Smyth's Toys plus five external food and retail units; and, (3) a five-storey office building that currently serves as the Irish headquarters for eBay Inc.