

EN

E-002275/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.8.2026)

On 22 July 2026, the proposed acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery by Paramount Skydance Corporation was approved by the Commission subject to conditions. The Commission thoroughly assessed the impact of the proposed acquisition in the EU from all possible angles, including but not limited to: (i) the production of films for cinema release, (ii) the distribution of films for cinema release; (iii) the distribution of television channels and (iv) streaming services. The assessment revealed that the concentration would lead to competition concerns in the European Economic Area (EEA) countries where Paramount currently distributes films to cinemas under the joint venture United International Pictures ('UIP') with Universal. Therefore, the Commission accepted remedy measures proposed by the parties that ensure the termination of Paramount's stake in UIP in the EEA.

The primary way for the European Board for Media Services (the Board) to draw up its opinions concerning media market concentrations is under Article 22 of the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA)¹, where a media market concentration is likely to affect the functioning of the internal market for media services and upon consultation by the national regulatory authority or body concerned. Drawing up an opinion under Article 23 of the EMFA is conditional on the absence of an assessment or a consultation by the national regulatory authority or body concerned. At this stage, the Commission does not intend to request the opinion of the Board under Article 23 of the EMFA. In the event that the Commission's assessment under the EU Merger Regulation does not align with a future opinion of the Board or any national media authority, the Commission's assessment is without prejudice to the assessment that is carried out by the relevant media authorities.²

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for media services in the internal market and amending Directive 2010/13/EU (European Media Freedom Act), OJ L 2024/1083, 17.4.2024, p. 1.

² Article 22(1) EMFA.