



M&A

## European deal making has come back with a bang in 2021:

- Volumes have climbed to 5,024 deals through the course of H1 2021
- Deal value for the period rising to €496bn
- In a context of :

## ...a much-improved macroeconomic backdrop :

- Optimism that economies across the continent will see strong rebounds as vaccination programs continue to roll-out
- Businesses impacted by lockdowns are able to reopen.
- Broad debt and equity markets to support acquisition
- Accommodative fiscal & monetary policy

# ...where corporates and PE firms have moved decisively to :

 Catch up on delayed deal timetables

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- Deploy the abundant pools of liquidity at their disposal
  - Non-financial European companies are now sitting on reserves equivalent to three months of turnover (more than half a month higher than precrisis levels)
  - European PE firms, meanwhile, have \$351.6bn of dry powder at their disposal, up from \$305bn a year ago







Sources: Mergermarket, CMS, W&C

## SPACs are the newcomers which are driving up the deal count:

- In particularly SPACs from North American have actively sought out deal targets in Europe :
  - In 2021, 37 SPAC transactions with European targets have been announced for a total deal value of 65,402 US\$M.

## A broad range of sectors are concerned:

- Entertainment: I2PO, Mediawan, etc.
- Consumer goods: 2MX Organic, etc.
- Financial Institution: Pegasus, etc.

## Amsterdam Stock Exchange remains the most popular to list SPACs...

- C.37% of the SPACs are listed in Amsterdam (from January to July)
- Flexible Dutch rules attract listing
  - Nevertheless apparently a current reform in the UK would be under consideration to drive listing is currently under consideration

#### Annual summary of SPAC transactions with European target from 2019 to now (until 31/08/2021)

Announcement year	Number of deals	Annual market share (%)	Deal value (\$m)
2019	6	11	1,213
2020	13	23	16,496
2021	37	66	47,694
Total	56	100	65,402

Breakdown SPAC deals by target industry from 2019 to now (until 31/08/2021)

5 most targeted sectors	High Technology	Financials	Industrials	日 日 Healthcare	Materials
Number of deals	12	10	6	6	4
Market share (%)	21	18	11	11	7
Deal value (\$m)	12,136	7,592	10,808	4,099	11,774
TOTAL SPACs IN EUROPE	56 deals Overall value of SPAC acquisitions: \$65,402m				

Sources: Mergermarket, CMS, W&C



## Strong trend for elephant deals in 2021

- In H1 2021, 25% of deal value in EMEA (and especially Europe) ranging from €2b to €5bn, and 31% above 5bn.
- EMEA is experiencing a strong trend for very large deals. Such as:
  - > Autostrade per Italia purchased for c.€18bn by a consortium of investors.
  - Deutsche Wohnen bought for c.€29bn by Vonovia
- Supported by a solid cross borders activity...
  - Investors outside of Europe have a strong appetite for European targets, to develop into global champions



Sources: Mergermarket, Deal drivers EMEA

#### M&A value (€bn) split by deal size over H1 2018 – H1 2021



#### Deal value (in €bn) for PE market (buyouts and exits) over H1 2018 – H1 2021

#### In H1 2021, PE market accounts for:

- ▶ 57% of the total deal value
- ▶ 35% of the total number of deals
  - > 1,770 deals in H1 2021 for an overall value of €285bn:
    - 1,139 buyouts with buyout deal value coming in at c.187bn
    - 631 exits worth c.98bn

#### Omnipresence of PE firms can be explained by :

- PE-sponsored corporate carve-out activity has accelerated
- PE overhauled their portfolio generating acquisition opportunities
- PE paid record-level multiples
- PE firms are innovative and open to deploying capital in flexible ways such as through :
  - SPAC deals
  - Participation in minority deals and growth equity investment structures



#### Number of deals for PE market (buyouts and exits) over H1 2018 - H1 2021



Sources: Mergermarket, CMS



### **FINANCIAL REASONS**

### Carve-out & distressed M&A

- ✓ Offload non-core assets
- ✓ Reduce debt which have been amplified through the pandemic period
- ✓ Portfolio review by strategic buyers after Covid-19

### **High valuation**

- ✓ EBITDA multiples for European mid-market companies climbed to an all-time high of 11.6x in Q2 2021 according to the Argos Index
- ✓ Strong appetite for technological, infrastructure and fintech companies driving up valuation

### High level of liquidity and SPACs

- ✓ Wave of SPACs coming from the USA that incentives companies to list without classic IPO process
- ✓ Monetary and fiscal stimulus packages introduced by governments in response to the crisis

### **CIRCUMSTANTIAL REASONS**

### **Ease of restrictions**

- ✓ Covid-19 slowed down M&A market
- $\checkmark$  Some sectors such as consumers were highly impacted of lockdown
- ✓ Vaccination reduce the risk of new lockdowns and Support current positive outlooks

Mergermarket surveyed senior executives from 240 corporates and 90 PE firms based in Europe, the Americas and APAC regions about their expectations for the European M&A market in the year ahead.

### 3 FIRST DRIVERS THAT CAME OUT OF THE POLL



GROUP 1 <sup>(1)</sup>	GROUP 2 <sup>(1)</sup>
22%	17%
18%	16%
17%	16%

Sources: CMS, Argos, Deal Drivers EMEA

Note: (1) groups made by CMS and Mergermarket among professional polled – no more information





#### Main typology of sellers involved in M&A European deals

PLAYERS	Large Corporates	Financial sponsors	Family-owned business	State-owned companies
WHY THEY SELL ?	<ul> <li>To offload non core assets and to avoid monopolistic positions</li> <li>To gain margins and cash for financing transforming and strategic projects</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reshape their portfolio and adapt to new trends post covid-19 trends</li> <li>Benefit from SPACs trend</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>To solve succession issues</li> <li>Situation where next generation of owners or managers unable to succeed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>To reduce public debt</li> <li>To open to competition some markets</li> <li>To get back to competitiveness and innovation</li> </ul>

TOP 5 most active sub-sectors in H1 in Europe: comparison 2021 vs 2020



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