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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

II

*(Information)*INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES
AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case M.7535 — IFMGIF/OHL Group/Connex)****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2015/C 93/01)

On 13 March 2015, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the internal market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾. The full text of the decision is available only in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- in the merger section of the Competition website of the Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/>). This website provides various facilities to help locate individual merger decisions, including company, case number, date and sectoral indexes,
- in electronic form on the EUR-Lex website (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en>) under document number 32015M7535. EUR-Lex is the online access to European law.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

Code of Conduct for the Members of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank

(2015/C 93/02)

THE SUPERVISORY BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK,

Having regard to Decision ECB/2004/2 of 19 February 2004 adopting the Rules of Procedure of the European Central Bank ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 13e(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 19(1) of Council Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013 ⁽²⁾ requires members of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank (hereinafter the 'members of the Supervisory Board') to act independently and objectively in the interest of the Union as a whole and to neither seek nor take instructions from the institutions and bodies of the Union, from any government of a Member State or from any other public or private body.
- (2) Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013 establishes the principle of separation between the specific tasks of the European Central Bank (ECB) concerning policies relating to prudential supervision and its tasks relating to monetary policy, as well as other tasks, in order to avoid conflicts of interest, and ensures that these functions are exercised in accordance with the applicable objectives.
- (3) Article 31(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013 requires the ECB to establish and maintain comprehensive and formal procedures including ethics procedures and proportionate periods to assess in advance and prevent possible conflicts of interest resulting from subsequent employment within two years of members of the Supervisory Board and to provide for appropriate disclosures subject to applicable data protection rules. These procedures are to be without prejudice to the application of stricter national rules. As regards members of the Supervisory Board who are representatives of national competent authorities, such procedures are to be established and implemented in cooperation with national competent authorities. Furthermore, these procedures are without prejudice to the application of the ECB terms and conditions of employment of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the four ECB representatives in the Supervisory Board, which also include provisions on the cooling-off periods.
- (4) Article 13e(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Central Bank requires each member of the Supervisory Board to ensure that any accompanying persons, alternates and the representatives of its national central bank, if the national competent authority is not the central bank, sign a declaration of compliance with the Code of Conduct prior to any participation in the meetings of the Supervisory Board,

HAS ADOPTED THIS CODE OF CONDUCT:

Article 1

Scope of application

1.1. This Code of Conduct shall apply to the members of the Supervisory Board in the performance of their duties as members of the Supervisory Board and as members of the Steering Committee of the Supervisory Board. It shall also apply to accompanying persons, alternates and representatives of national central banks, where the national competent authority is not the national central bank (hereinafter the 'other participants in Supervisory Board meetings'), in the performance of their duties relating to the Supervisory Board and the Steering Committee of the Supervisory Board, in cases where this is explicitly provided for.

1.2. This Code of Conduct shall be without prejudice to the application of stricter national rules, as well as the ECB terms and conditions of employment, including rules on private financial transactions, applicable to those coming within the scope of this Code of Conduct in their capacity as representatives of national competent authorities or representatives of national central banks of participating Member States or members of the ECB.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 80, 18.3.2004, p. 33.

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013 of 15 October 2013 conferring specific tasks on the European Central Bank concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions (OJ L 287, 29.10.2013, p. 63).

*Article 2***Basic principles**

2.1. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall observe the highest standards of ethical conduct. In the performance of their duties, they are expected to act with honesty, independence, impartiality, discretion and regardless of self-interest. They shall be mindful of the importance of their duties and responsibilities, shall take into account the public character of their functions and shall conduct themselves in a way that maintains and promotes public trust in the ECB.

2.2. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall perform their duties in strict compliance with the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank (hereinafter the 'Statute of the ESCB'), Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013, the Rules of Procedure of the European Central Bank and the Rules of Procedure of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank⁽¹⁾.

2.3. When making public statements on matters relating to the Single Supervisory Mechanism, members of the Supervisory Board shall have due regard to their role in and duties to the Supervisory Board and shall in particular make clear whether they are speaking as representatives of national competent authorities, in a personal capacity or as members of the Supervisory Board.

2.4. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall perform their duties as, and consider themselves in public appearances to be, representatives of the Supervisory Board, as an internal collective body of the ECB. Within the Supervisory Board, they shall coordinate messages to be conveyed via public speeches, oral and/or written, and any other form of public communication. They shall also coordinate within the Supervisory Board any appearances at hearings of and reports to the European Parliament and the Eurogroup in accordance with Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013 as well as any exchanges of views with national parliaments in accordance with Article 21(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013.

*Article 3***Separation from the monetary policy function**

3.1. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall respect the separation of the ECB's specific tasks concerning policies relating to prudential supervision from its tasks relating to monetary policy, as well as other tasks, and shall comply with internal ECB rules on the separation of prudential supervision from monetary policy to be adopted pursuant to Article 25(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013.

3.2. In the performance of their tasks, members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall take into account the objectives set by Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013 and shall not interfere with other tasks of the ECB.

*Article 4***Independence**

4.1. In accordance with Article 19(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013, members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings, when carrying out the tasks conferred upon them, shall act independently and objectively in the interest of the Union as a whole, regardless of national or personal interest, and shall not seek or take instructions from the institutions or bodies of the Union, from any government of a Member State or from any other public or private body.

4.2. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall, in particular, carry out the tasks conferred upon them free from undue political influence and from commercial interference that would affect their personal independence.

4.3. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall abstain from professional activities and shall resign from any position that could hinder their independence or present them with the possibility of using privileged information.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 182, 21.6.2014, p. 56.

*Article 5***Rules on private financial transactions**

5.1. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall not use confidential information, to which they have access, for the purpose of carrying out private financial transactions, whether directly or indirectly via third parties, at their own risk and on their own account or at the risk and on the account of a third party.

5.2. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall organise or adhere to adequate procedures for the management of their personal assets, being assets beyond those required for ordinary personal and family use, in a manner that ensures the independence of the member of the Supervisory Board, the absence of conflicts of interest and an impediment to the use of privileged information by the member.

5.3. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall comply with the rules on private financial transactions adopted by the ECB for ECB members of staff. With regard to members of the Supervisory Board who are representatives of national competent authorities, compliance with and monitoring of such rules on private financial transactions is subject to any applicable national procedural rules.

*Article 6***Wealth declaration**

In the absence of a requirement to provide a wealth declaration under applicable national rules, members of the Supervisory Board shall submit to the President of the ECB, either during their first three months of office or during the period of three months following the entry into force of this Code of Conduct, a written statement setting out their patrimony, any direct or indirect involvement in any company, and the prospective organisation for the management of their assets during their term of office as a member of the Supervisory Board. These written statements, including wealth declarations required under applicable national rules, shall be updated on an annual basis.

*Article 7***Opinion of the ECB Ethics Committee**

7.1. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall seek the opinion of the ECB Ethics Committee in the event of doubt relating to the practical application of the rules laid down in this Code of Conduct.

7.2. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings, as well as the ECB and the national competent authority or national central bank of which the requesting member of the Supervisory Board or other participant in Supervisory Board meetings is a representative, shall be informed of the principles and rationale of the opinions issued by the ECB Ethics Committee without identifying any individual member of the Supervisory Board or other participant.

*Article 8***Cooling-off periods**

8.1. Members of the Supervisory Board shall inform the President of the ECB of their intention to engage in any occupational activity, whether gainful or not, in the two-year period from the date of their ceasing to hold office. They may only engage in an occupational activity with:

- (a) a credit institution that is directly supervised by the ECB after the expiry of a period of one year from the date of cessation of their membership of the Supervisory Board;
- (b) a credit institution that is not directly supervised by the ECB, but where a conflict of interest exists or could be perceived as existing, after the expiry of a period of one year from the date of cessation of their membership of the Supervisory Board;
- (c) an institution other than a credit institution, save where a conflict of interest exists or could be perceived to exist, in which case the relevant activity may commence only after the expiry of a period of six months from the date of cessation of their membership of the Supervisory Board.

8.2. Other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall inform the President of the ECB of their intention to engage in any occupational activity, whether gainful or not, in the one-year period from the date of their ceasing to act in that capacity. They may only engage in an occupational activity with:

- (a) a credit institution that is directly supervised by the ECB after the expiry of a period of six months from the date of cessation of their participation in the Supervisory Board;

- (b) a credit institution that is not directly supervised by the ECB, but where a conflict of interest exists or could be perceived as existing, after the expiry of a period of six months from the date of cessation of their participation in the Supervisory Board;
- (c) an institution other than a credit institution, save where a conflict of interest exists or could be perceived to exist, in which case the relevant activity may commence only after the expiry of a period of three months from the date of cessation of their participation in the Supervisory Board.

8.3. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall request the ECB Ethics Committee to issue an opinion on the cooling-off periods applicable to them under this Article. The ECB Ethics Committee may recommend in its opinion the waiver or reduction of the cooling-off periods laid down in this Article in circumstances where the possibility of conflicts of interest resulting from subsequent occupational activities can be excluded.

8.4. In relation to Articles 8.1(a) and 8.2(a) the ECB Ethics Committee may also recommend in its opinion extending the cooling-off periods up to a maximum of two years for Supervisory Board Members and one year for other participants in Supervisory Board meetings in appropriate circumstances where the possibility of conflicts of interest resulting from subsequent occupational activities cannot be excluded for longer periods.

8.5. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings should be paid appropriate compensation in respect of cooling-off periods by their respective employer institutions. This compensation should be paid irrespective of the receipt of an offer to engage in an occupational activity. Accordingly, Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings may request an opinion from the ECB Ethics Committee on the appropriate level of compensation in respect of cooling-off periods.

8.6. Opinions issued by the ECB Ethics Committee under Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 shall be addressed to the Supervisory Board for its consideration. The Supervisory Board shall then make a recommendation to the respective national competent authority or the respective national central bank who shall inform the Supervisory Board of any impediment to the implementation of this recommendation.

Article 9

Conflicts of interest

9.1. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall avoid any situation which could give rise or may be perceived as giving rise to a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises where the members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings have private or personal interests that may influence the impartial and objective performance of their tasks including any potential benefit or advantage to themselves, their family members or their recognised partners.

9.2. Any situation that could cause or could be perceived as causing a conflict of interest shall be disclosed in writing by members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings to the Supervisory Board and these members shall not participate in any deliberation or vote in relation to that situation.

Article 10

Gifts or other benefits

10.1. A 'gift' means any benefit or advantage, whether financial or in kind, which is connected with the duties conferred on members of the Supervisory Board or other participants in Supervisory Board meetings but is not the agreed compensation for the services delivered, whether given by or offered to the members of the Supervisory Board or other participants in Supervisory Board meetings, or to any member of their families or their recognised partners.

10.2. Acceptance of a gift shall not, in any event, impair or influence the objectivity and freedom of action of a member of the Supervisory Board and shall not create an inappropriate obligation or expectation on the part of the recipient or the provider. Gifts that are connected to supervised entities of a value exceeding EUR 50 and public sector gifts of a value exceeding that which is customary and considered appropriate shall be rejected. If a particular situation does not allow any such gifts to be rejected, the gift must be handed over to the ECB, the national competent authority or the national central bank of which the relevant member of the Supervisory Board or other participant in Supervisory Board meetings is a representative unless any excess above EUR 50 is paid to the ECB, the national competent authority or the national central bank. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall not accept frequent gifts from the same source.

*Article 11***Acceptance of invitations and related payments**

11.1. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings, bearing in mind their obligations to respect the principle of independence and avoid conflicts of interest, may accept invitations to conferences, receptions or cultural events and connected entertainment, including appropriate hospitality, if their participation in the event is compatible with the fulfilment of their duties or is in the ECB's interest. They should observe particular prudence with regard to individual invitations.

11.2. Any invitations and payments that are not in compliance with these rules shall be rejected by the members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings and they shall inform their counterparts of the applicable rules.

*Article 12***Activities undertaken in a personal capacity**

12.1. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall ensure that activities undertaken by them in a personal capacity, if any, whether remunerated or not, do not have a negative impact on their obligations and will not damage the reputation of the ECB.

12.2. Teaching and scholarly activities, for example, as well as other activities, may be undertaken by members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings, provided that these activities are not related to supervised entities. They may accept remuneration and the reimbursement of expenses for such activities when undertaken in a personal capacity and without the involvement of the ECB, provided that such remuneration and expenses are commensurate with the work performed and remain within customary limits.

12.3. On an annual basis, members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall notify the Ethics Committee in writing of any activities in which they have participated in a personal capacity and of any remuneration resulting from their external mandates, whether public or private, which were performed during their terms of office.

12.4. In scientific or academic contributions, members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall make clear that such contributions are made in a personal capacity and do not represent the views of the ECB.

*Article 13***Gainful employment or other duties of a spouse or recognised partner**

The members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall immediately report to the Ethics Committee any gainful employment or other remunerated activities of their spouse or recognised partner that could cause or could be perceived as causing a conflict of interest, even in the event of doubt.

*Article 14***Professional secrecy**

14.1. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall take into account the requirements of professional secrecy in Article 37 of the Statute of the ESCB, Article 27(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013 and Article 23a of the Rules of Procedure of the European Central Bank, pursuant to which members are required not to disclose confidential information, whether in public speeches or statements or to the media, with regard to supervisory decisions that have not yet been officially published.

14.2. Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the professional secrecy obligations in Article 37 of the Statute of the ESCB are respected by persons having access to the members' information.

*Article 15***Information on conflicting national legal provisions**

Members of the Supervisory Board and other participants in Supervisory Board meetings shall inform the ECB Ethics Committee of any impediment to compliance with this Code of Conduct to the fullest extent, including any impediment arising from conflicting national legal provisions.

*Article 16***Entry into force**

This Code of Conduct shall enter into force on the day following its adoption.

Done at Frankfurt am Main, 12 November 2014.

The Chair of the Supervisory Board

Danièle NOUY

IV

(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

19 March 2015

(2015/C 93/03)

1 euro =

Currency	Exchange rate	Currency	Exchange rate		
USD	US dollar	1,0677	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,3578
JPY	Japanese yen	129,12	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	8,2842
DKK	Danish krone	7,4508	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,4453
GBP	Pound sterling	0,71830	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,4809
SEK	Swedish krona	9,2797	KRW	South Korean won	1 197,86
CHF	Swiss franc	1,0595	ZAR	South African rand	13,0815
ISK	Iceland króna		CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	6,6140
NOK	Norwegian krone	8,6355	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,6500
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	13 932,02
CZK	Czech koruna	27,425	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	3,9555
HUF	Hungarian forint	303,22	PHP	Philippine peso	47,979
PLN	Polish zloty	4,1288	RUB	Russian rouble	64,1691
RON	Romanian leu	4,4170	THB	Thai baht	34,997
TRY	Turkish lira	2,7776	BRL	Brazilian real	3,4740
AUD	Australian dollar	1,3966	MXN	Mexican peso	16,3091
			INR	Indian rupee	66,8199

⁽¹⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

New national side of euro coins intended for circulation

(2015/C 93/04)

*National side of the new commemorative 2-euro coin intended for circulation and issued by Italian Republic*

Euro coins intended for circulation have legal tender status throughout the euro area. For the purpose of informing the public and all parties who handle the coins, the Commission publishes a description of the designs of all new coins ⁽¹⁾. In accordance with the Council conclusions of 10 February 2009 ⁽²⁾, euro-area Member States and countries that have concluded a monetary agreement with the European Union providing for the issuing of euro coins are allowed to issue commemorative euro coins intended for circulation, provided that certain conditions are met, particularly that only the 2-euro denomination is used. These coins have the same technical characteristics as other 2-euro coins, but their national face features a commemorative design that is highly symbolic in national or European terms.

Issuing country: Italian Republic

Subject of commemoration: the 750th anniversary of the birth of Dante Alighieri 1265-2015

Description of the design: The design shows Dante with an open book in his left hand and the Purgatory mountain at the back: detail from the illustration of the Divine Comedy painted by Domenico di Michelino (1417-1491) in the Dome of S. Maria del Fiore in Florence; in the centre, the monogram of the Italian Republic 'RI'; at the right the inscription 'R', identifying the Mint of Rome; below the inscription 'SP', initials of Silvia Petrassi and the dates '1265 2015', i.e. the year of the anniversary and that of the coin's issue respectively; arch shaped, the inscription 'DANTE ALIGHIERI'.

The coin's outer ring depicts the 12 stars of the European flag.

Number of coins to be issued: 3,5 million

Date of issue: July 2015

⁽¹⁾ See OJ C 373, 28.12.2001, p. 1 for the national faces of all the coins issued in 2002.

⁽²⁾ See the conclusions of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council of 10 February 2009 and the Commission Recommendation of 19 December 2008 on common guidelines for the national sides and the issuance of euro coins intended for circulation (OJ L 9, 14.1.2009, p. 52).

New national side of euro coins intended for circulation

(2015/C 93/05)

*National side of the new commemorative 2-euro coin intended for circulation and issued by Portugal*

Euro coins intended for circulation have legal tender status throughout the euro area. For the purpose of informing the public and all parties who handle the coins, the Commission publishes a description of the designs of all new coins ⁽¹⁾. In accordance with the Council conclusions of 10 February 2009 ⁽²⁾, euro-area Member States and countries that have concluded a monetary agreement with the European Union providing for the issuing of euro coins are allowed to issue commemorative euro coins intended for circulation, provided that certain conditions are met, particularly that only the 2-euro denomination is used. These coins have the same technical characteristics as other 2-euro coins, but their national face features a commemorative design that is highly symbolic in national or European terms.

Issuing country: Portugal

Subject of commemoration: The 150th Anniversary of the Portuguese Red Cross

Description of the design: The design depicts a visual composition based on the well-known cross, symbol of the organisation, replicated several times to represent the expansion of the humanitarian action both in Portugal and abroad. The contour of a hand in the background symbolises the different kinds of help given by the organisation to the people, mostly medical, but also and among others: cooperating, constructing and supporting. At the left side, in semi-circle, the inscription 'CRUZ VERMELHA PORTUGUESA'. At the top, the Coat of Arms and the name of the issuing country 'PORTUGAL' and at the bottom the years '1865' and '2015'.

The coin's outer ring depicts the 12 stars of the European flag.

Number of coins to be issued: 520 000

Date of issue: April 2015

⁽¹⁾ See OJ C 373, 28.12.2001, p. 1 for the national faces of all the coins issued in 2002.

⁽²⁾ See the conclusions of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council of 10 February 2009 and the Commission Recommendation of 19 December 2008 on common guidelines for the national sides and the issuance of euro coins intended for circulation (OJ L 9, 14.1.2009, p. 52).

New national side of euro coins intended for circulation

(2015/C 93/06)



National side of the new commemorative 2-euro coin intended for circulation and issued by Portugal

Euro coins intended for circulation have legal tender status throughout the euro area. For the purpose of informing the public and all parties who handle the coins, the Commission publishes a description of the designs of all new coins ⁽¹⁾. In accordance with the Council conclusions of 10 February 2009 ⁽²⁾, euro-area Member States and countries that have concluded a monetary agreement with the European Union providing for the issuing of euro coins are allowed to issue commemorative euro coins intended for circulation, provided that certain conditions are met, particularly that only the 2-euro denomination is used. These coins have the same technical characteristics as other 2-euro coins, but their national face features a commemorative design that is highly symbolic in national or European terms:

Issuing country: Portugal

Subject of commemoration: 500 years of the first contacts with Timor, nowadays an independent Portuguese speaking country (Timor Lorosae)

Description of the design: The design depicts a XVI Century ship, representing the arrival of the Portuguese navigators to the island, and a local house thatched roof top, including the typical wood sculptures, permanent memories of myths and legends. The one depicted on the coin represents the history of the first inhabitants, who arrived by boat from other parts of the Asian continent and the importance of the horse to travel around the steep mountains which cover most of the island. At the top right, the year '1515' and the name of the issuing country 'PORTUGAL'. At the bottom left, the inscription 'TIMOR' and the year '2015'. At the bottom, the signature of the artist Fernando Fonseca.

The coin's outer ring depicts the 12 stars of the European flag.

Number of coins to be issued: 520 000

Date of issue: July 2015

⁽¹⁾ See OJ C 373, 28.12.2001, p. 1 for the national faces of all the coins issued in 2002.

⁽²⁾ See the conclusions of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council of 10 February 2009 and the Commission Recommendation of 19 December 2008 on common guidelines for the national sides and the issuance of euro coins intended for circulation (OJ L 9, 14.1.2009, p. 52).

NOTICES FROM MEMBER STATES

List of Member States and their competent authorities concerning Articles 15(2), 17(8) and 21(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008

(2015/C 93/07)

The publication of this list is in accordance with Article 22(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999⁽¹⁾. The competent authorities have been notified in accordance with the following articles of that Regulation:

(a) Article 15(1): The exportation of catches made by fishing vessels flying the flag of a Member State shall be subject to the validation of a catch certificate by the competent authorities of the flag Member State, as established in Article 12(4), if required within the framework of the cooperation laid down in Article 20(4).

Article 15(2): Flag Member States shall notify to the Commission their competent authorities for the validation of the catch certificates referred to in paragraph 1.

(b) Article 17(8): Member States shall notify to the Commission their competent authorities for the checks and verifications of the catch certificates in accordance with Article 16 and paragraphs (1) to (6) of this Article.

(c) Article 21(3): Member States shall notify to the Commission their competent authorities for the validation and the verification of the section 're-export' of catch certificates in accordance with the procedure defined in Article 15.

Member State	Competent authorities
Belgium	(a), (b), (c): — Vlaamse Overheid; Dienst Zeevisserij (Flemish Government; Marine Fisheries Service)
Bulgaria	(a), (b), (c): — Изпълнителна Агенция по Рибарство и Аквакултури (National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture)
Czech Republic	(a): — not applicable (b), (c): — Celní úřad pro Středočeský kraj (Customs Office of Central Bohemian Region) — Celní úřad pro hlavní město Prahu (Customs Office of Capital City Prague) — Celní úřad Praha Ruzyně (Customs Office of Prague Ruzyně) — Celní úřad pro Jihočeský kraj (Customs Office of South Bohemian Region) — Celní úřad pro Plzeňský kraj (Customs Office of Pilsen Region) — Celní úřad pro Karlovarský kraj (Customs Office of Karlovy Vary Region) — Celní úřad pro Ústecký kraj (Customs Office of Ústí nad Labem Region) — Celní úřad pro Liberecký kraj (Customs Office of Liberec Region) — Celní úřad pro Královéhradecký kraj (Customs Office of Hradec Králové Region) — Celní úřad pro Pardubický kraj (Customs Office of Pardubice Region)

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 1.

Member State	Competent authorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Celní úřad pro Kraj Vysočina (Customs Office of Vysočina Region) — Celní úřad pro Jihomoravský kraj (Customs Office of South Moravian Region) — Celní úřad pro Olomoucký kraj (Customs Office of Olomouc Region) — Celní úřad pro Moravskoslezský kraj (Customs Office of Moravian-Silesian Region) — Celní úřad pro Zlínský kraj (Customs Office of Zlín Region)
Denmark	<p>(a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — NaturErhvervstyrelsen (The Danish AgriFish Agency) <p>(b):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — NaturErhvervstyrelsen – kun direkte landinger (The Danish AgriFish Agency – direct landings only) — Fødevarestyrelsen – anden import (The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration – other imports) <p>(c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Fødevarestyrelsen (The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration)
Germany	<p>(a), (b), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (Federal Office for Agriculture and Food)
Estonia	<p>(a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Põllumajandusministeerium; Kalamajandusosakond (Ministry of Agriculture; Fishery Economic Department) <p>(b):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Maksu- ja Tolliamet; Põllumajandusministeerium; Keskkonnaministeerium (Estonian Tax and Customs Board; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Environment) <p>(c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Maksu- ja Tolliamet (Estonian Tax and Customs Board)
Ireland	<p>(a), (b), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority
Greece	<p>(a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Υπουργείο Παραγωγικής Ανασυγκρότησης Περιβάλλοντος και Ενέργειας, Γενική Διεύθυνση Βιώσιμης Αλιείας, Διεύθυνση Ελέγχου Αλιευτικών Δραστηριοτήτων και Προϊόντων (Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy, Directorate-General for Sustainable Fisheries, Directorate Control of Fishing Activities and Fishery Products) <p>(b), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Υπουργείο Παραγωγικής Ανασυγκρότησης Περιβάλλοντος και Ενέργειας, Διεύθυνση Αποκεντρωμένων Υπηρεσιών Αττικής, Τμήμα Κτηνιατρικής, Γραφείο Ελέγχου Αλιευτικών Προϊόντων (Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy, Directorate of Decentralised Services of Attiki, Department of Veterinary, Control Unit of Fishery Products – located at Athens International Airport)
Spain	<p>(a), (b), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente; Secretaria General de PESCA; Dirección General de Ordenación Pesquera; Subdirección General de Control e Inspección (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment; Secretary-General of Fisheries; Directorate-General of Fisheries Management; Subdirector General of Control and Inspection)

Member State	Competent authorities
France	<p>(a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Les directions départementales des territoires et de la mer – délégations à la mer et au littoral; direction de la mer Guadeloupe; direction de la mer Martinique; direction de la mer Guyane; direction de la mer Sud Océan Indien (Departmental Directorates of territories and the sea — Delegations to the sea and the coastline; Directorate of the sea Guadeloupe; Directorate of the sea Martinique; Directorate of the sea French Guiana; Directorate of the sea South Indian Ocean) — Le Centre national de surveillance des pêches (National Fisheries Surveillance Center) <p>(b):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Les bureaux de douane des directions régionales (Regional Directorates' Customs Offices) — Le Centre national de surveillance des pêches (National Fisheries Surveillance Center) <p>(c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Les bureaux de douane des directions régionales (Regional Directorates' Customs Offices)
Croatia	<p>(a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Ministarstvo poljoprivrede; Uprava ribarstva (Ministry of Agriculture; Directorate of Fisheries) <p>(b), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Ministarstvo financija; Carinska uprava (Ministry of Finance; Customs Service)
Italy	<p>(a), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Autorità Marittime (Guardia Costiera) (Maritime Authority (Coast Guard)) <p>(b):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Agenzia delle Dogane (Customs Agency) — Ministero della Salute (Ministry of Health)
Cyprus	<p>(a), (b), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Υπουργείο Γεωργίας, Αγροτικής Ανάπτυξης και Περιβάλλοντος; Τμήματος Αλιείας και Θαλασσιών Ερευνών (Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment; Department of Fisheries and Marine Research)
Latvia	<p>(a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Zemkopības ministrija; Zivsaimniecības departamentā (Ministry of Agriculture; Fisheries Department) <p>(b), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Valsts vides dienests departamenta Zivsaimniecības kontroles (State Environmental Service Department of Fisheries Control)
Lithuania	<p>(a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Žuvininkystės tarnyba prie Žemės ūkio ministerijos (Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture) <p>(b), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Muitinės departamentas prie Finansų ministerijos (Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance)
Luxembourg	<p>(a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — not applicable <p>(b), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Administration des services vétérinaires (Veterinary Services Administration)

Member State	Competent authorities
Hungary	(a): — not applicable (b), (c): — Nemzeti Élelmiszerlánc-biztonsági Hivatal (National Food Chain Safety Office)
Malta	(a), (b), (c): — Dipartiment tas-Sajd u l-Akwakultura; Ministeru għall-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli, l-Ambjent u l-bidla fil-klima (Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change)
Netherlands	(a), (c): — Nederlandse Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit (Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority) (b): — Douane (Customs Department) — Nederlandse Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit (Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority)
Austria	(a): — not applicable (b), (c): — Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit; Bundesamt für Ernährungssicherheit (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety; Federal Office of Food Safety)
Poland	(a): — Ministerstwo Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi; Departament Rybołówstwa (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Fisheries Department) (b), (c): — Ministerstwo Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi; Departament Rybołówstwa (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Fisheries Department) — Okręgowy Inspektorat Rybołówstwa Morskiego w Gdyni (Regional Sea Fisheries Inspectorate in Gdynia) — Okręgowy Inspektorat Rybołówstwa Morskiego w Szczecinie (Regional Sea Fisheries Inspectorate in Szczecin)
Portugal	(a), (c): — Continente: Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos; Autoridade Nacional de PESCA (Mainland: Directorate-General of Natural Resources, Security and Maritime Services; National Fishing Authority) — Açores: Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e do Mar; Gabinete do Subsecretário Regional das Pescas (Azores: Regional Secretariat for the Environment and the Sea; Regional Office of the Undersecretary of Fisheries) — Açores: Inspeção Regional das Pescas (Azores: Regional Fisheries Inspection) — Madeira: Direção Regional de Pescas (Madeira: Regional Fisheries Directorate) (b): — Continente: Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos; Autoridade Nacional de PESCA; Direção de Serviços de Inspeção (Mainland: Directorate-General of Natural Resources, Security and Maritime Services; National Fishing Authority; Directorate of Inspection Services)

Member State	Competent authorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Açores: Inspeção Regional das Pescas (Azores: Regional Fisheries Inspection) — Madeira: Direção Regional de Pescas (Madeira: Regional Fisheries Directorate) — Alfândega de Viana do Castelo (Customs office of Viana do Castelo) — Alfândega de Leixões (Customs office of Leixões) — Alfândega do Aeroporto do Porto (Customs office of Porto airport) — Alfândega de Aveiro (Customs office of Aveiro) — Alfândega de Peniche (Customs office of Peniche) — Alfândega Marítima de Lisboa (Maritime customs office of Lisbon) — Alfândega do Aeroporto de Lisboa (Customs office of Lisbon airport) — Alfândega de Setúbal (Customs office of Setúbal) — Delegação Aduaneira de Sines; Alfândega de Setúbal (Customs delegation to Sines, Customs office of Setúbal) — Delegação Aduaneira do Aeroporto de Faro (Customs delegation to Faro airport) — Alfândega de Ponta Delgada (Customs office of Ponta Delgada) — Delegação Aduaneira da Horta (Customs delegation to Horta) — Alfândega do Funchal (Customs office of Funchal) — Delegação Aduaneira do Aeroporto da Madeira (Customs delegation to Madeira Airport)
Romania	<p>(a), (b), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Agenția Națională pentru Pescuit și Acvacultură (National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture)
Slovenia	<p>(a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Finančni urad Koper (Koper Financial Office) <p>(b), (c):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Finančni urad Celje (Celje Financial Office) — Finančni urad Koper (Koper Financial Office) — Finančni urad Kranj (Kranj Financial Office) — Finančni urad Ljubljana (Ljubljana Financial Office) — Finančni urad Maribor (Maribor Financial Office) — Finančni urad Murska Sobota (Murska Sobota Financial Office) — Finančni urad Nova Gorica (Nova Gorica Financial Office) — Finančni urad Novo mesto (Novo Mesto Financial Office)

Member State	Competent authorities
Slovakia	(a): — not applicable (b), (c): — Štátna veterinárna a potravinová správa Slovenskej republiky (State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic)
Finland	(a), (b), (c): — Varsinais-Suomen elinkeino-, liikenne- ja ympäristökeskus (Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland)
Sweden	(a), (b), (c): — Havs- och vattenmyndigheten (Agency for Marine and Water Management)
United Kingdom	(a): — Marine Management Organisation — Marine Scotland (b): — Marine Management Organisation — UK Port Health Authorities (c): — Marine Management Organisation

Notification pursuant to Article 114, paragraph 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union — Authorisation to maintain national measures which are more stringent than provisions of an EU harmonisation measure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2015/C 93/08)

1. By letter of 25 November 2014, which reached the Commission on 26 November 2014, Denmark notified the Commission of its wish to maintain ⁽¹⁾ national provisions on the use of nitrite additives in meat products that differ from Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁾ into Danish law. Order No 542 of 27 May 2013 on food additives etc. in foodstuffs (*BEK nr 542 af 27.5.2013 (tilsætningbekendtgørelsen), Offentliggørelsedato: 31.5.2013, Fødevarerministeriet*). The notification concerns the substances potassium nitrite (E 249) and sodium nitrite (E 250) (nitrites) in Annex II Part E to the Regulation, food category 8 (EU list).

2. The maximum levels were originally laid down in Directive 2006/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁾. This Directive was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 5 July 2006 and is based on Article 95 of the EC Treaty (now Article 114 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union — TFEU). With regard to the use of nitrates and nitrites in meat products it aims to strike a balance between the protective effects of nitrites against the multiplication of the bacteria responsible for life-threatening botulism and the risk of the formation of carcinogenic nitrosamines through the presence of nitrites in meat products, in line with scientific advice received from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Scientific Committee for Food (SCF).

European Parliament and Council Directive 95/2/EC ⁽⁴⁾ as it was adopted originally laid down maximum residual levels for nitrites and nitrates in various meat products. By contrast, Directive 2006/52/EC introduces the principle, recommended in an EFSA opinion from 2003, that the control of nitrites should be regulated in the form of maximum amounts that may be added during the manufacture of meat products for potassium nitrite (E 249) and sodium nitrite (E 250). The amount is 150 mg/kg for meat products in general and 100 mg/kg for sterilised meat products.

By way of exception, Directive 2006/52/EC contains maximum residual levels for certain specified traditionally produced meat products, where it was not possible to control the ingoing amounts because of their traditional manufacturing process.

This authorised use of nitrites was transferred in the new Union list of food additives approved for use in foods and conditions of use, in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008, which was established by Commission Regulation (EU) No 1129/2011 ⁽⁵⁾.

3. The Danish Order No 542 allows the addition of potassium nitrite (E 249) and sodium nitrite (E 250) to meat products only in so far as specific added amounts are not exceeded. Depending on the products in question these maximum amounts are 0, 60, 100 or 150 mg/kg. Unlike Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008, the Danish provisions do not contain any exceptions to the principle of fixing maximum added amounts for nitrites, thereby not permitting the placing on the market of certain traditionally manufactured meat products from other Member States. In so far as the 0 and the 60 mg/kg limits apply, the Danish legislation, in addition, contains lower limits for added amounts of nitrites than the Regulation for a number of meat products.

4. The Danish provisions are therefore more stringent than Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 in relation to the addition of nitrites to meat products.

5. The Kingdom of Denmark considers that, unlike Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008, the current Danish provisions are fully consistent with the opinion of EFSA ⁽⁶⁾ that safe meat products generally can be produced by the addition of as little as 50 mg per kg nitrite.

Denmark also points out that, through the lower maximum added amounts, the Danish provisions further minimise the risk posed by nitrosamines which is its primary concern.

⁽¹⁾ An authorisation for 5 years was granted by Commission Decision 2010/561/EU.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on food additives (OJ L 354, 31.12.2008, p. 16).

⁽³⁾ Directive 2006/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 amending Directive 95/2/EC on food additives other than colours and sweeteners and Directive 94/35/EC on sweeteners for use in foodstuffs (OJ L 204, 26.7.2006, p. 10).

⁽⁴⁾ European Parliament and Council Directive 95/2/EC of 20 February 1995 on food additives other than colours and sweeteners (OJ L 61, 18.3.1995, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) No 1129/2011 of 11 November 2011 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing a Union list of food additives (OJ L 295, 12.11.2011, p. 1).

⁽⁶⁾ The EFSA Journal (2003) 14, 1-31, The effects of Nitrites/Nitrates on the Microbiological Safety of Meat Products.

Denmark emphasises that, despite the fact that its rules providing for lower levels of nitrites which may be added to meat products have been in place for many years, they have never given rise to problems with preservation of the products concerned and that Denmark has a very low rate of botulism compared with other Member States, and not a single case caused by meat products has been recorded since before 1980.

The latest figures provided by Denmark show that the trend in consumption patterns has not changed significantly since the Commission Decision 2010/561/EU ⁽¹⁾. Danes' consumption of meat is rising steadily, but the intake of meat products containing nitrites is largely unchanged. Finally, imports of meat products from other Member States are increasing all the time.

6. In 2014 the Commission finalised a desk study to monitor the implementation by the Member States of the EU rules on nitrites. The study was based on the responses to a questionnaire that was submitted to all Member States. It revealed that with some exceptions, the typical amount of nitrites added to non-sterilised meat products is lower than the EU maximum amount, but higher than the Danish levels. It was concluded that the possibility to review the current maximum levels of nitrites should be further explored.

The Commission therefore launched an ad-hoc study as regards the use and the need of nitrites by industry in different categories of meat products, including protection against *Clostridium botulinum*. Conclusions from this study will be available by end 2015.

Furthermore, Commission Regulation (EU) No 257/2010 ⁽²⁾ requires that EFSA re-evaluates the safety of the use of nitrites by end 2015.

The conclusions of the desk study with the Member States, the ad-hoc study as regards the use of nitrites by industry, the re-evaluation by EFSA and the data reported by Denmark, will allow the Commission to review the maximum levels of nitrites as of 2016.

7. The Commission will process this notification in accordance with Article 114(4) and (6) TFEU. Article 114(4) provides that if, after the adoption of an EU harmonisation measure, a Member State wishes to maintain its more stringent national provisions on grounds of major needs referred to in Article 36 TFEU or relating to the protection of the environment or the working environment, it shall notify them to the Commission indicating the reasons for maintaining them. Following the notification of the Danish provisions the Commission has 6 months to approve or reject them. In this period the Commission shall verify whether the maintenance of the Danish provisions is justified on grounds of major needs referred to in Article 36, or relating to the protection of the environment, and that they do not constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade and that they do not create an unnecessary and disproportionate obstacle to the functioning of the internal market.

8. Any party who wishes to provide comments on this notification must send them to the Commission within 30 days from the publication of this notice. Any comment submitted after this period will not be taken into account.

9. Further details about the Danish notification can be obtained from:

European Commission
Directorate-General Health and Food Safety
DG SANTE — Unit E7 Food Improvement Agents
Wim Debeuckelaere

Tel. +32 22985095

E-mail: sante-e7-additives@ec.europa.eu

⁽¹⁾ Commission Decision 2010/561/EU of 25 May 2010 concerning national provisions notified by Denmark on the addition of nitrite to certain meat products (OJ L 247, 21.9.2010, p. 55).

⁽²⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) No 257/2010 of 25 March 2010 setting up a programme for the re-evaluation of approved food additives in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on food additives (OJ L 80, 26.3.2010, p. 19).

V

(Announcements)

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION
POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.7537 — ARDIAN France / F2i SGR / F2i Aeroporti)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2015/C 93/09)

1. On 12 March 2015, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which ARDIAN France SA ('ARDIAN', France), part of the Ardian Group (France), and F2i SGR SpA ('F2i SGR', Italy) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation joint control of F2i Aeroporti SpA ('FA', Italy), currently solely controlled by F2i SGR, by way of purchase of shares.
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - for ARDIAN: private equity and asset management activities, also including investments in the EEA transport sector,
 - for F2i SGR: private equity and asset management activities, notably in the transport, energy, telecommunications and healthcare sectors,
 - for FA: holding of investments, either directly or through its subsidiaries, in companies operating in the airport sector in Italy.
3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.
4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+32 22964301), by email to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number M.7537 — ARDIAN France / F2i SGR / F2i Aeroporti, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case M.7519 — Repsol/Talisman Energy)
Candidate case for simplified procedure
(Text with EEA relevance)
(2015/C 93/10)

1. On 10 March 2015 the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004⁽¹⁾ by which Repsol, S.A. ('Repsol', Spain) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control over Talisman Energy Inc. ('Talisman', Canada), by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Repsol is present in all activities relating to the oil and gas industry including exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas; refining and marketing activities of oil products, petrochemical products, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as well as marketing activities relating to natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG),
- Talisman is active in the exploration, development, production, transportation, and marketing of crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids. Talisman's activities are concentrated in North America, the North Sea, and Southeast Asia. It also has assets in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Australia/East Timor, and Papua New Guinea.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under the Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004⁽²⁾ it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the Notice.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (+32 22964301), by e-mail to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number M.7519 — Repsol/Talisman Energy to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

⁽²⁾ OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

OTHER ACTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Notice concerning a request pursuant to Article 35 of Directive 2014/25/EU**Request made by a Contracting Entity**

(2015/C 93/11)

On 16 January 2015 the Commission received a request in accordance with Article 35 of Directive 2014/25/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on procurement procedures by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors and repealing Directive 2004/17/EC ⁽¹⁾. The first working day following receipt of the request is 19 January 2015.

This request is made by Flughafen Wien and concerns activities relating to the exploitation of a geographical area for the purposes of provision of airports or other terminal facilities to carriers by air on the territory of Austria. Article 35 of Directive 2014/25/EU provides that the later Directive is not applicable when the relevant activity is directly exposed to competition in markets to which access is not restricted. These conditions are evaluated solely for the purposes of Directive 2014/25/EU and are without prejudice to the application of competition rules or other fields of EU policies.

Pursuant to letter (b) of first paragraph, of point 1 of Annex IV to Directive 2014/25/EU, the Commission is allowed a period of 130 working days to take a decision on this request, commencing on the working day referred to above. The period therefore expires on 30 July 2015.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 243.

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