

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.4461 — Accor Services France/Groupe Caisse d'Épargne/Accor Emploi Services Universel JV)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2006/C 298/10)

1. On 28 November 2006, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which the undertakings Accor Services France ('ASF', France), belonging to the group Accor ('Accor', France) and Groupe Caisse d'épargne ('GCE', France) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the undertaking A.C.E. ('ACE', France), a newly created company constituting a joint venture.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for undertaking ASF: design and provision of services to undertakings and communities in France, in particular through the emission of tickets for services;
- For undertaking GCE: group active in the supply of products and banking and financial services for individuals, companies, communities and financial institutions;
- For undertaking ACE: newly created full-function joint venture, entrusted with the emission and marketing of Cheques for Universal Employment Services (CESU), with a fixed amount.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 139/2004. However, the final decision on this point is reserved. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under 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 (fax No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.4461 — Accor Services France/Groupe Caisse d'Épargne/Accor Emploi Services Universel JV, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
J-70
B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32.