Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.1958 — Bertelsmann AG/Groupe Bruxelles Lambert SA (GBL)/Pearson Television)

(2000/C 153/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 24 May 2000 the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ([1]), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 ([2]), by which Bertelsmann AG and GBL, acquire, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of Pearson Television.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— Bertelsmann AG: publishing, printing and distribution of books and magazines, book clubs, publishing and distribution of music and records/compact discs, television, and multimedia related services,

— GBL: holding company with direct and indirect (via the Electrafina and Audiofina companies) shareholdings in various companies. GBL is the main shareholder in Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, TotalFina and Imerys. It jointly controls CLT-UFA with Bertelsmann,

— Pearson Television: incorporates all the television-related activities of the Pearson plc group. Its subsidiaries and shareholdings are principally focused on television production and transmission.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified concentration could fall within the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. 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.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference COMP/M.1958 — Bertelsmann AG/Groupe Bruxelles Lambert SA (GBL)/Pearson Television, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate C — Information, Communication and Multimedia,
Avenue de Cortenberg/Kortenberglaan 150,
B-1040 Brussels.

([1]) OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

([2]) OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.