Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.2824 — Ernst & Young/Andersen Germany)

(2002/C 181/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 23 July 2002 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 the German undertakings Ernst & Young Deutsche Allgemeine Treuhand AG, Treuhand Süd GmbH, Ernst & Young Stiftung (Ernst & Young, Germany), belonging to the global network of Ernst & Young (Ernst & Young, International), enter into a full merger, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(a) of the Regulation, with Arthur Andersen WPG/StBG GmbH, Andersen Luther, Arthur Andersen Corporate Finance GmbH and Arthur Andersen Real Estate GmbH (Andersen, Germany), which were part of the Andersen worldwide network, and the German undertaking Menold Aulinger.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— Ernst & Young, Germany: auditing and related accounting services, tax advice, corporate finance and reorganisation services,

— Ernst & Young, International: international network of audit and accounting firms,

— Andersen, Germany: auditing and related accounting services, tax advice, corporate finance, business consulting services, legal advice,

— Menold Aulinger: legal advice.

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.2824 — Ernst & Young/Andersen Germany, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
J-70,
B-1049 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.