Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.3779 — Pernod Ricard/Allied Domecq)

(2005/C 114/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 2 May 2005, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ([1]) by which the undertaking Pernod Ricard S.A. ('Pernod Ricard', France) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation control of certain brands and other assets of the undertaking Allied Domecq plc ('Allied Domecq', United Kingdom) by way of public bid announced on 21 April 2005.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for undertaking Pernod Ricard: production and distribution of wines and spirits,

— for undertaking Allied Domecq: production and distribution of wines and spirits, operation of quick service restaurants.

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.

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 (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.3779 — Pernod Ricard/Allied Domecq, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition,
Merger Registry
J-70
B-1049 Brussels

([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.