Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.4384 — Hombergh — de Pundert — PIB/Ovako)

(2006/C 246/15)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 4 October 2006, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 and following a referral pursuant to Article 4(5) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ([1]) by which the undertakings Hombergh Holdings B.V. ('Hombergh', the Netherlands), W.P. de Pundert Ventures B.V. ('de Pundert', The Netherlands) and Pampus Industrie Beteiligungen GmbH & Co. KG ('PIB', Germany) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the undertaking Oy Ovako AB ('Ovako', Sweden) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for Hombergh: holding company, with holdings in undertakings active in environmental products and services, the steel sector and the concrete sector;

— for de Pundert: holding and investment company with holdings in the energy sector, the meat sector and the steel sector;

— for PIB: German holding company with holdings in several companies active in the steel sector;

— for Ovako: producer of long special steels and processed steel products for the automotive and engineering industry.

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 (fax No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.4384 — Hombergh — de Pundert — PIB/Ovako, 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.