

**Prior notification of a concentration**  
**(Case COMP/M.5811 — Erste Bank/ASK)**  
**(Text with EEA relevance)**  
(2010/C 107/08)

1. On 19 April 2010, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 <sup>(1)</sup>, by which Erste Bank der österreichischen Sparkassen AG ('Erste Bank', Austria), which is controlled by Erste Group Bank AG, acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of Allgemeine Sparkasse Oberösterreich Bankaktiengesellschaft ('ASK', Austria) by contract of management or by other means.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for Erste Bank: banking and financial services, including deposit and lending operations for private and corporate customers, deposit services, payment services, asset management, investment banking, trade in securities, project and trade financing,
- for ASK: banking and financial services, including deposit and lending operations for private and corporate customers, deposit services, payment services, asset management.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope the EC Merger Regulation. 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 (+32 22964301), by e-mail to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number COMP/M.5811 — Erste Bank/ASK, to the following address:

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

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'EC Merger Regulation').