Prior notification of a concentration

(Case No IV/M.1699 — TPG Bacchus/Bally)

(1999/C 257/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 2 September 1999, 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 American undertaking TPG Bacchus, controlled by TPG Partners II, acquires, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, control of the whole of the Swiss undertaking Bally International AG presently owned by Oerlikon-Bührle Holding AG, by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— TPG Bacchus: a company set up for the purpose of the notified acquisition,

— TPG Partners II: shareholdings in companies active in the United States and Europe in natural gas, pastries, household accessories, clothes, shoes, accessories and other items,

— Bally International AG: manufacturer and distribution of high-fashion brand-name goods, such as shoes and other leather goods, clothes and accessories.

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 IV/M.1699 — TPG Bacchus/Bally, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition (DG IV),
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Avenue de Cortenberg/Kortenberglaan 150,
B-1040 Brussels.