Prior notification of a concentration
(Case No COMP/M.3459 — EPSON/SANYO/JV)
(2004/C 215/07)
(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 18 August 2004, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ( 1) by which the undertakings Seiko Epson Corporation (‘Seiko Epson’; Japan) and Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd. (‘Sanyo Electric’, Japan) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the undertaking Sanyo Epson Imaging Devices Corporation (‘Sanyo Epson’, Japan) by way of purchase of shares in a newly created company constituting a joint venture.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
   — for Seiko Epson: manufacture of information-related equipment, electronic devices and precision products,
   — for Sanyo Electric: manufacture of multimedia and information systems, home appliances, commercial equipment, electric devices and batteries,
   — for Sanyo Epson: manufacture of LCD panels for incorporation into consumer products.

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 +32/2/2964301 or 2967244) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.3459 — EPSON/SANYO/JV, to the following address:

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Directorate-General for Competition,
Merger Registry
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