Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.3981 — Fives-Lille/Landis)

(2005/C 280/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 3 November 2005 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 (*) by which Compagnie de Fives-Lille (‘FL’, France), ultimately controlled by Barclays Bank plc (UK), acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation control of the assets of Landis Lund (UK) and Landis US (USA) (together ’Landis’).

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
— FL: design, production and sale of equipment mainly for the aluminium, steel, cement, and automotive sectors; FL is also present in other market sectors, such as glass, sugar, power generation and handling systems for industry;
— Landis: design, manufacture and sale of grinding systems including orbital cylindrical, centerless and disc grinder machines for the automotive industry, as well as abrasives and cutting consumables.

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.3981 — Fives-Lille/Landis to the following address:

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