Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.6427 — Hermes Europe/Armadillo Holding/B2C)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2011/C 335/14)

1. On 4 November 2011, 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 Hermes Europe GmbH ('Hermes', Germany) belonging to the Otto group and Armadillo Holding GmbH ('Armadillo', Germany), jointly controlled by LaPoste SA and the Arikanli Group, acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation joint control of B2C Limited Liability Company ('B2C', Russia) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
   — for Hermes: provider of transportation and logistics services,
   — for Armadillo: provider of transportation and logistics services, especially in Eastern Europe,
   — for B2C: active in Russia in the delivery of parcels to consumers, either from businesses or from other consumers.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the EC Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under the EC Merger Regulation (2) it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the Notice.

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 email to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number COMP/M.6427 — Hermes Europe/Armadillo Holding/B2C, to the following address:

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

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(1) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'EC Merger Regulation').
(2) OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32 (‘Notice on a simplified procedure’).