Notification of a joint venture
(Case COMP/E-2/37.747)
(2000/C 9/06)
(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 22 December 1999, the Commission received notification pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation No 17 (1) of an agreement between Rohm and Hass Company, a company incorporated in the United States of America, and Stockhausen GmbH & Co. KG, a company incorporated in Germany. The object of this jointly controlled joint venture is the production of crude acrylic acid at Deer Park, Texas, and at Marl, Germany. Crude acrylic acid is not an end product but it is used as a basis in the manufacturing of other products such as butyl acrylate or glacial acrylic acid. The joint venture will be solely dedicated to the manufacturing of crude acrylic acid which will be entirely sold to the parent companies.

In addition Rohm and Hass will acquire Stockhausen's butyl acrylate business in Europe as well as its external merchant market business for glacial acrylic acid.

2. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified joint venture could fall within the scope of Regulation No. 17.

3. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation.

4. 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 98 05) or by post, under reference COMP/E-2/37.747, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate E,
Office 2/46,
Avenue de Cortenberg/Kortenberglaan 158,
B-1040 Brussels.

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(1) OJ 13, 21.2.1962, p. 204/62.