

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case M.10151 - LINDE/SIPCHEM/JV)
Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2021/C 65/10)

1. On 18 February 2021, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾.

This notification concerns the following undertakings:

- Linde GmbH ('Linde', Germany),
- Sahara International Petrochemical Company ('Sipchem', Saudi Arabia),
- a newly created joint venture (the 'JV', Saudi Arabia).

Linde and Sipchem acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control of the JV.

The concentration is accomplished 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 Linde: Linde GmbH forms part of a multinational group of companies ultimately owned by Linde plc that mainly focus on gases and engineering services,
- for Sipchem: Sipchem is the ultimate parent of a group of companies that is active in the production and marketing of basic and intermediate petrochemical products.
- for the JV: the JV will be active in the onsite supply of industrial gases in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the 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 Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽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. The following reference should always be specified:

M.10151— Linde/Sipchem/JV

Observations can be sent to the Commission by email, by fax, or by post. Please use the contact details below:

Email: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu

Fax +32 22964301

Postal address:

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⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

⁽²⁾ OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.