Prior notification of a concentration

(Case No IV/M.1117 — Pinault/Guilbert)

(98/C 48/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 9 February 1998, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 (¹) by which the groupe Pinault-Printemps-Redoute (controlled by Artémis) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation control of the groupe Guilbert by way of public bid announced on 28 January 1998.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Pinault-Printemps-Redoute: retailers, financial services and international trade,

- Guilbert: retailers of office stationery materials.

3. Upon preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified concentration could fall within the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. 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.

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 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference IV/M.1117 — Pinault/Guilbert, to the following address:

European Commission, Directorate-General for Competition (DG IV), Directorate B — Merger Task Force, Avenue de Cortenberg/Kortenberglaan 150, B-1040 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989; Corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.