

**Prior notification of a concentration**  
**(Case COMP/M.2544 — Masterfoods/Royal Canin)**

(2002/C 6/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 3 January 2002 the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 <sup>(1)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 <sup>(2)</sup>, by which the undertaking Masterfoods Holding, a subsidiary of Mars Incorporated (Mars, USA), acquires, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, control of the whole of the undertaking Royal Canin SA (Royal Canin, France) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Mars: production and sale of food products, including pet food,
- Royal Canin: production and sale of pet food.

3. On 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 COMP/M.2544 — Masterfoods/Royal Canin, to:

European Commission,  
Directorate-General for Competition,  
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,  
J-70,  
B-1049 Brussels.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.