

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3055 — Rautakirja/Hachette Distribution Services/JV)****Candidate case for simplified procedure**

(2002/C 324/11)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 16 December 2002, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 ⁽²⁾, by which the undertaking Rautakirja, Finland, acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of that Regulation, joint control of the undertaking HDS Retail Czech Republic (HDS Retail), by way of purchase of shares. HDS Retail is currently wholly owned and controlled by Hachette Distribution Services SA (HDS), France.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Rautakirja: distribution of newspapers and magazines and operation of news-stands, bookstores, cinemas and restaurants,
- HDS: wholesale distribution and retailing of newspapers, magazines and books; distribution and sale of records, videos and multimedia products; operation of retail stores in travel outlets,
- HDS Retail: operation of retail stores in transportation centres and newspaper kiosks in the Czech Republic.

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. Pursuant to the Commission notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽³⁾, 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.

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.3055 — Rautakirja/Hachette Distribution Services/JV, to the following address:

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

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

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

⁽³⁾ OJ C 217, 29.7.2000, p. 32.