

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3102 — Thomesto/SCA Holtz JV)****Candidate case for simplified procedure**

(2003/C 84/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 31 March 2003 the Commission received a 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 Finnish undertaking Thomesto Ltd, belonging to the Finnish Metsäliitto group, and the German undertakings SCA Hygiene Products AG and SCA Hygiene Products GmbH, belonging to the Swedish group Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget SCA ('SCA'), acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the German undertaking SCA Holtz GmbH, by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Metsäliitto: forestry, wood pulp and paper, mechanical wood processing, timber, plywood and engineered wood products, printing and writing paper, packaging, paper board, tissue paper products,
- SCA: hygiene products, packaging, paper, woodpulp and wood products,
- SCA Holtz: wood procurement in Germany and Austria.

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 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 to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference COMP/M.3102 — Thomesto/SCA Holtz 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.