

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3204 — Montagu Private Equity/Actaris)****Candidate case for simplified procedure**

(2003/C 147/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 13 June 2003 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 Montagu Private Equity Limited, (MPE), United Kingdom, jointly controlled by Mantague Management Limited, (MML), United Kingdom, and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, (HSBC), United Kingdom, Mr Jean-Paul Bize, France, and Mr Clermont Matton, Canada, acquire, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of Actaris Holding Luxembourg SA, (Actaris), by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- MPE: private equity fund management company,
- MML: holding company of MPE's managers,
- HSBC: financial and banking services,
- Mr Jean-Paul Bize: manager of Actaris,
- Mr Clermont Matton: Permira: manager of Actaris,
- Actaris: manufacturing and distribution of electricity, gas, water and heat metering products.

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.

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.3204 — Montagu Private Equity/Actaris, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Merger Registry,
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.