

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3249 — Candover/JPMP/3i/ABB)****Candidate case for simplified procedure**

(2004/C 24/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 20 January 2004 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 undertakings Candover Partners Limited ('Candover', United Kingdom), belonging to the Candover Investments plc group, JPMP Capital Corp. ('JPMP', USA), belonging to the J. P. Morgan Chase & Co. Group, and 3i Group plc ('3i', United Kingdom) belonging to the 3i Group plc, acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of parts of a business division of ABB Group Ltd ('ABB', Switzerland) by way of purchase of shares and assets.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Candover: private equity company,
- JPMP: international private equity company,
- 3i: international venture capital company,
- ABB (the acquired activities): products and services to the oil, gas and petroleum industry.

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 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.3249 — Candover/JPMP/3i/ABB, 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.