

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case COMP/M.3578 — BP/Nova Chemicals/JV)

(2005/C 136/14)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 27 May 2005, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004⁽¹⁾ by which the undertakings BP p. l.c. ('BP', United Kingdom) and Nova Chemicals Corporation ('Nova', Canada) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the undertakings 'DutchCo' and 'SwissCo' by way of purchase of shares in two newly created companies constituting a joint venture.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for undertaking BP: oil and gas exploration and production, refining, marketing, supply and transportation, manufacturing and marketing of petrochemicals and related products, development of gas-fired power generation facilities,
- for undertaking Nova: ethylene, polyethylene and chemical and energy co-products, styrene and polymers,
- 'DutchCo', 'SwissCo': polystyrene and expandable polystyrene.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 139/2004. 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 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 number COMP/M.3578 — BP/Nova Chemicals/JV, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition,
Merger Registry
J-70
B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004 p. 1