

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case COMP/M.4004 — SCF/SAG GEST/JV)
Candidate case for simplified procedure

(2005/C 324/10)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 12 December 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 Santander Consumer Finance, S.A. ('SCF', Spain) belonging to the Grupo Santander and Soluções Automóvel Globais, SGPS S.A. ('SAG GEST', Portugal) controlled by SGC-SGPS, S.A. acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of Multirent-Aluguer e Comércio de Automóveis, S.A. ('Multirent', Portugal), SAG International Finance Company Limited ('SAG IFC', Ireland) and the entire business of HBF Auto-Renting, S.A. ('HBF business', Spain) by way of purchase of shares in a newly created company constituting a joint venture.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- SCF: financial services, mainly in Spain,
- SAG GEST: car distribution and financial services in Portugal,
- Multirent: full fleet management services in Portugal,
- SAG IFC: acquisition of receivables originated by Multirent,
- HBF business: full fleet management services in Spain.

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. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽²⁾ 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 number COMP/M.4004 — SCF/SAG GEST/JV, to the following address:

European Commission
Competition DG
Merger Registry
J-70
B-1049 Brussels

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32.