

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case COMP/M.4073 — ConocoPhillips/LDEHG-LDRM)
Candidate case for simplified procedure

(2006/C 5/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 23 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 undertaking ConocoPhillips ('ConocoPhillips', United States) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation control of the whole of the undertakings Louis Dreyfus Energy Holding GmbH ('LDEHG', Germany) and Louis Dreyfus Refining & Marketing Ltd ('LDRM', United Kingdom), currently owned by Louis Dreyfus Energy Holdings Ltd ('LDEH', United Kingdom), by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for ConocoPhillips: exploration and production of oil and gas; petroleum refining, marketing, supply and transportation; petrochemicals and plastics production, distribution and related services;
- for LDEHG: operation of the Wilhelmshaven oil refinery and marketing of fuels in Germany;
- for LDRM: purchasing crude oil and feedstock for the Wilhelmshaven oil refinery and marketing of the refined products.

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.4073 — ConocoPhillips/LDEHG-LDRM, 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.