

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.2340 — EDP/Cajastur/Cáser/Hidroeléctrica del Cantábrico)****Candidate case for simplified procedure**

(2001/C 49/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 2 February 2001 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 the Portuguese undertaking EDP-Electricidade de Portugal SA (EDP) and the Spanish undertakings Caja de Ahorros de Asturias (Cajastur) and Caja de Seguros Reunidos, Compañía de Seguros y Reaseguros SA (Cáser) acquire, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of the Spanish undertaking Hidroeléctrica del Cantábrico SA (Hidrocantábrico) by way of public bid announced on 25 January 2001 and contract of management.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- EDP: production and distribution of electricity mainly in Portugal, telecommunications in Portugal,
- Cajastur: retail banking,
- Cáser: insurance and pension funds,
- Hidrocantábrico: generation, distribution and supply of electricity in Spain. Distribution and supply of gas and telecommunications in Asturias (Spain).

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.2340 — EDP/Cajastur/Cáser/Hidroeléctrica del Cantábrico, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Rue Joseph II/Jozef II-straat 70,
B-1000 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.