

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3068 — Ascott Group/Goldman Sachs/Orville)**

(2003/C 13/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 13 January 2003, 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 undertakings the Ascott Group Limited ('Ascott', Singapore), controlled by Singapore Technologies Pte Ltd ('Singapore Technologies', Singapore) and the Goldman Sachs Group Inc. ('Goldman Sachs', United States of America) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of that Regulation joint control of Orville SAS ('Orville', France), previously controlled by Goldman Sachs, by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Ascott: management of serviced short-stay residences and investment holding,
- Singapore Technologies: conglomerate active in engineering systems, information technology, utilities, real estate financial and property services, hotels and services residence, venture capital fund investment and management,
- Goldman Sachs: global investment bank,
- Orville: management of serviced short-stay residences.

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.

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.3068 — Ascott Group/Goldman Sachs/Orville, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
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.