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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance.

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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance.

II

*(Information)*INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES
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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case M.8722 — Omers/Thames Water)****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2017/C 429/01)

On 8 December 2017, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the internal market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾. The full text of the decision is available only in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- in the merger section of the Competition website of the Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/>). This website provides various facilities to help locate individual merger decisions, including company, case number, date and sectoral indexes,
- in electronic form on the EUR-Lex website (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en>) under document number 32017M8722. EUR-Lex is the online access to European law.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case M.8681 — Endowment Strategies/Benvic Europe)****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2017/C 429/02)

On 5 December 2017, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the internal market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾. The full text of the decision is available only in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- in the merger section of the Competition website of the Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/>). This website provides various facilities to help locate individual merger decisions, including company, case number, date and sectoral indexes,
- in electronic form on the EUR-Lex website (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en>) under document number 32017M8681. EUR-Lex is the online access to European law.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration
(Case M.8562 — Cargill/Faccenda Investments/JV)
(Text with EEA relevance)
(2017/C 429/03)

On 15 November 2017, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the internal market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾. The full text of the decision is available only in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- in the merger section of the Competition website of the Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/>). This website provides various facilities to help locate individual merger decisions, including company, case number, date and sectoral indexes,
- in electronic form on the EUR-Lex website (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en>) under document number 32017M8562. EUR-Lex is the online access to European law.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

IV

(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

COUNCIL

Council conclusions on a renewed EU agenda for higher education

(2017/C 429/04)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING the political background to this issue as set out in Annex to these conclusions.

RECOGNISING THAT:

1. at individual level, higher education contributes to the personal and professional development of learners, and helps individuals take responsibility for their lifelong learning and career. At societal level, it lays the foundation for sustainable development, economic growth, innovation and social cohesion and has an important role in identifying and addressing societal challenges.
2. there is a need to strengthen collaboration and synergies, both within education sectors and between higher education and research, innovation and the world of work.
3. higher education institutions need support in fulfilling their civic engagement role and in taking steps to ensure that the composition of their student and staff body provides a better reflection of the population as a whole.
4. higher education institutions should be encouraged to rethink approaches to learning and teaching and to promote, in particular, a student-centred approach, collaborative and inquiry-based learning, inclusive learning environments, and use of digital technologies.
5. while progress has been remarkable in moving towards the Europe 2020 headline target for at least 40 % of 30-34 year olds to have completed tertiary or equivalent education by 2020, it is critical to ensure that higher education is of high quality and relevance to enable graduates to thrive both personally and professionally.
6. in this context, efforts are still needed to provide better quality data on higher education, for example on social and employment outcomes and civic participation for people leaving higher education, as well as on transnational mobility and its challenges.
7. international cooperation and learning mobility in the field of higher education, especially through the Erasmus+ programme, have enabled the creation of new cross-border partnerships, the exchange of good practices, building intercultural understanding and shared values, and unlocking and harnessing new knowledge, with a view to enhancing Europe's higher education system's world-wide attractiveness and competitiveness.
8. specific challenges for Europe's higher education sector are:
 - a) equipping students with better knowledge, skills and competences, while addressing skills mismatches and skills shortages in certain occupational fields;
 - b) developing equal access and conditions to succeed for all in higher education, and promoting civic engagement by higher education institutions;

- c) fully using the untapped potential of higher education institutions to contribute, through teaching and research, to innovation and development in the wider economy, particularly in their regions;
- d) encouraging coherence in higher education governance and sustainable resource management.

WELCOMES:

9. the Commission's communication on a renewed EU agenda for higher education⁽¹⁾, which builds on previous cooperation and aims to ensure that the EU's tools and programmes support mutual learning and policy cooperation in higher education.

In full respect of the principles of academic freedom, and institutional autonomy of higher education institutions, and recognising their fundamental role in the further modernisation of higher education systems,

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES to focus on the following priority fields for action:

A. PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

10. Encouraging higher education institutions to develop the talent and potential of all learners, and better equip them with the knowledge, skills and competences they need to act as active and responsible citizens in society and to participate in the labour market and in life-long learning.
11. Tackling skills mismatches and skills shortages as well as anticipating future skills needs by encouraging higher education institutions to:
 - a) strengthen cooperation with employers, for example through work-based learning and by incorporating theoretical and practical components into programmes;
 - b) collaborate with educational institutions at all levels and other relevant stakeholders to motivate learners to pursue careers in high-skilled professions, including in academia, that do not only respond to the labour market demands of today but also contribute to shaping tomorrow's economy, society and the future of work, and to place special focus on acquiring skills in the fields of science, technology, engineering, (arts) and maths (STE(A)M);
 - c) use skills and labour market forecasts and analyses as input to improve the quality of higher education and to help learners make informed study choices;
12. Building stronger links with local communities, for example by better involving community and voluntary activities into programmes, where appropriate, and by encouraging an entrepreneurial culture and skills both inside and outside the higher education institutions.
13. Encouraging higher education institutions to implement innovative approaches to teaching and learning, in particular by developing a strategic approach to digitalisation and by enhancing the digital literacy of all learners.

B. ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF A DIVERSE STUDENT BODY AND SUPPORTING ACADEMIC STAFF

14. Striving for more equity by enhancing access to higher education using a wide array of means, including working towards better accessibility at regional level, as well as creating better conditions to succeed and ensuring high quality education and guidance for all students, regardless of their background.
15. Making efforts to open up higher education systems for people at any stage of their life, by facilitating the transitions between different qualification levels and educational pathways, improving the recognition of informal and non-formal learning, and by developing more flexible modes of delivery of higher education, for example through blended learning and Open Educational Resources.
16. Encouraging higher education institutions to support and incentivise initial training and the continuous professional development of academic staff, in order to equip them with the appropriate teaching skills required to address the needs of a diverse student body, create effective collaborative learning environments, engage students in research activities, promote interdisciplinarity and better utilise innovative pedagogical practices.

⁽¹⁾ 9843/17

17. Taking steps to improve the digital competences of academic staff, including digital pedagogy and discipline-specific digital competences.
18. Making efforts to appreciate excellence and innovation in teaching, for example by developing reward systems and career opportunities for academic staff, taking into consideration the balance between teaching and research activities.
19. Promoting learning mobility and other relevant international experience among students and academic staff, such as virtual and blended mobility or internationalisation at home, and building learning and teaching mobility into programmes more systematically.

C. CONTRIBUTING TO INNOVATION IN THE WIDER ECONOMY

20. Supporting higher education institutions in improving their impact on macro-regional strategies, regional economies and innovation capacity as well as contributing to technology transfer and regional smart specialisation policy.
21. Supporting higher education institutions in creating effective collaboration networks between different organisations and across sectors.
22. Encouraging higher education institutions to create favourable conditions for entrepreneurial thinking and creativity and to take a holistic look at how research and innovation are integrated into study programmes.
23. Supporting developments in doctoral programmes to better prepare graduates for careers both outside and within academia, including enhancing the visibility of transferable competences, and helping to release their full potential while contributing to innovation and development in the wider economy and society.

D. PROMOTING EFFICIENCY AND DEVELOPING FURTHER QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

24. Striving for adequate, fair and sustainable funding and for the effective governance of higher education systems in order to improve the quality and relevance of teaching and learning and to promote inclusivity and excellence.
25. Encouraging the active participation of internal and involvement of external stakeholders in the governance of higher education institutions.
26. Further enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of quality assurance in order to reinforce mutual trust, strengthen recognition procedures of academic qualifications and stimulate international mobility.

With a view to supporting the Member States' cooperation in the field, WELCOMES THE COMMISSION'S INTENTION TO:

27. reinforce cooperation under the Erasmus+ programme and strategic framework for education and training including by promoting inclusiveness, excellence and innovation in teaching, fostering the civic and social responsibility of students and higher education institutions, encouraging relevant voluntary and community work and developing collaboration with the business sector.
28. support measures, and foster dissemination of the results, to enhance quality in academic mobility, such as improved transparency of qualifications, including those held by refugees and migrants, and the digital exchange of student data, while fully respecting national and European data protection rules.
29. offer EU-level support to coalitions for the promotion of STE(A)M fields and to share good practices.
30. foster the development of innovative pedagogies to help higher education institutions implement comprehensive digital learning strategies, for example by exploring the Digital Learning Readiness Model.
31. create the incentives and capacity for higher education to seek solutions to social and economic challenges and to make a stronger contribution to innovative and entrepreneurial growth in regions, in particular by facilitating better links with public authorities, research institutions and the business sector.
32. contribute to strengthening the links and coordination between the European Higher Education Area, the European Research Area, initiatives in the innovation area and other relevant international education fora.

33. optimise and create synergies between EU tools for evidence-building as well as strengthen the work of the Eurydice network and the cooperation with the OECD in order to ensure synergies between activities, avoid duplication of effort and benefit from joint work.
34. contribute to the examination of funding and governance structures in the context of cooperation with the OECD, with a particular focus on the balance between teaching and research, with the objective of ensuring improved graduate outcomes and the development of more efficient and effective higher education systems.

INVITES THE COMMISSION TO:

35. take full account of these conclusions in the preparation of its proposals for the future strategic cooperation framework in the field of education and training, the Union programme on education and training after 2020, and other financial instruments, giving due weight to strategic, financial and quality considerations in the development of such proposals.
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ANNEX

Political Background

1. Council conclusions on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ('ET2020') (12 May 2009).
 2. Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on developing the role of education in a fully-functioning knowledge triangle (26 November 2009).
 3. Council conclusions on the modernisation of higher education (28 and 29 November 2011).
 4. Council conclusions on the social dimension of higher education (16 and 17 May 2013).
 5. Council conclusions on the global dimension of European higher education (25 and 26 November 2013).
 6. Council conclusions on quality assurance supporting education and training (20 May 2014).
 7. Council conclusions on entrepreneurship in education and training (12 December 2014).
 8. Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education (Paris, 17 March 2015).
 9. 2015 Joint Report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020) — New priorities for European cooperation in education and training (23 and 24 November 2015).
 10. Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on promoting socio-economic development and inclusiveness in the EU through education: the contribution of education and training to the European Semester 2016 (24 February 2016).
 11. Council conclusions on developing media literacy and critical thinking through education and training (30 May 2016).
 12. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: 'A New Skills Agenda for Europe. Working together to strengthen human capital, employability and competitiveness' (10 June 2016).
 13. 2016 Education and Training Monitor (November 2016).
 14. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on improving and modernising education (7 December 2016).
 15. Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on inclusion in diversity to achieve a high quality education for all (17 February 2017).
 16. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a renewed EU agenda for higher education (30 May 2017).
 17. Council Recommendation on tracking graduates (20 November 2017).
 18. Council Conclusions on future of work (7 December 2017).
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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

13 December 2017

(2017/C 429/05)

1 euro =

Currency	Exchange rate	Currency	Exchange rate		
USD	US dollar	1,1736	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,5092
JPY	Japanese yen	132,99	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	9,1612
DKK	Danish krone	7,4431	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,6886
GBP	Pound sterling	0,87905	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,5874
SEK	Swedish krona	9,9060	KRW	South Korean won	1 280,07
CHF	Swiss franc	1,1647	ZAR	South African rand	15,9868
ISK	Iceland króna		CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	7,7692
NOK	Norwegian krone	9,8253	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,5505
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	15 969,18
CZK	Czech koruna	25,650	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	4,7959
HUF	Hungarian forint	314,36	PHP	Philippine peso	59,252
PLN	Polish zloty	4,2146	RUB	Russian rouble	69,1283
RON	Romanian leu	4,6325	THB	Thai baht	38,236
TRY	Turkish lira	4,5242	BRL	Brazilian real	3,8907
AUD	Australian dollar	1,5503	MXN	Mexican peso	22,5424
			INR	Indian rupee	75,6170

⁽¹⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

2017 Annual update of the remuneration and pensions of the officials and other servants of the European Union and the correction coefficients applied thereto

(2017/C 429/06)

1.1. Table of the amounts of basic monthly salaries for each grade and step in function groups AD and AST referred to in Article 66 of the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017:

1.7.2017	STEP				
GRADE	1	2	3	4	5
16	18 310,61	19 080,05	19 881,81		
15	16 183,53	16 863,58	17 572,20	18 061,09	18 310,61
14	14 303,51	14 904,57	15 530,88	15 962,98	16 183,53
13	12 641,93	13 173,16	13 726,71	14 108,61	14 303,51
12	11 173,35	11 642,86	12 132,11	12 469,65	12 641,93
11	9 875,37	10 290,33	10 722,75	11 021,08	11 173,35
10	8 728,19	9 094,95	9 477,14	9 740,80	9 875,37
9	7 714,25	8 038,42	8 376,21	8 609,24	8 728,19
8	6 818,11	7 104,61	7 403,16	7 609,13	7 714,25
7	6 026,07	6 279,29	6 543,16	6 725,20	6 818,11
6	5 326,04	5 549,85	5 783,05	5 943,95	6 026,07
5	4 707,34	4 905,14	5 111,26	5 253,46	5 326,04
4	4 160,50	4 335,32	4 517,49	4 643,18	4 707,34
3	3 677,17	3 831,70	3 992,72	4 103,79	4 160,50
2	3 250,01	3 386,58	3 528,89	3 627,07	3 677,17
1	2 872,47	2 993,17	3 118,94	3 205,73	3 250,01

2. Table of the amounts of basic monthly salaries for each grade and step in function group AST/SC referred to in Article 66 of the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017:

1.7.2017	STEP				
GRADE	1	2	3	4	5
6	4 669,97	4 866,21	5 070,70	5 211,76	5 283,78
5	4 127,48	4 300,92	4 482,28	4 606,33	4 669,97
4	3 648,01	3 801,29	3 961,03	4 071,24	4 127,48
3	3 224,22	3 359,70	3 500,90	3 598,28	3 648,01
2	2 849,67	2 969,42	3 094,21	3 180,29	3 224,22
1	2 518,63	2 624,47	2 734,76	2 810,83	2 849,67

3. Table of the correction coefficients applicable to the remuneration and pensions of officials and other servants of the European Union referred to in Article 64 of the Staff Regulations containing:

- Correction coefficients applicable from 1 July 2017 to the remuneration of officials and other servants referred to in Article 64 of the Staff Regulations (indicated in column 2 of the following table);
- Correction coefficients applicable from 1 January 2018 under Article 17(3) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations to transfers by officials and other servants (indicated in column 3 of the following table);

— Correction coefficients applicable from 1 July 2017 to pensions under Article 20(1) of Annex XIII to the Staff Regulations (indicated in column 4 of the following table);

1	2	3	4
Country/Place	Remuneration 1.7.2017	Transfer 1.1.2018	Pension 1.7.2017
Bulgaria	53,4	51,7	
Czech Rep.	78,3	71,9	
Denmark	133,9	136,2	136,2
Germany	97,5	100,0	
Bonn	93,9		
Karlsruhe	94,6		
Münich	107,5		
Estonia	80,3	82,4	
Ireland	119,8	124,0	124,0
Greece	79,9	79,6	
Spain	88,7	89,4	
France	114,8	108,6	108,6
Croatia	74,9	67,5	
Italy	97,3	99,1	
Varese	90,9		
Cyprus	74,4	79,4	
Latvia	74,9	69,8	
Lithuania	74,3	68,3	
Hungary	74,5	63,1	
Malta	86,5	89,1	
Netherlands	108,3	109,6	109,6
Austria	106,3	108,7	108,7
Poland	70,6	60,7	
Portugal	82,4	82,9	
Romania	63,9	56,6	
Slovenia	81,5	78,7	
Slovakia	77,3	69,0	
Finland	119,9	120,6	120,6
Sweden	127,9	119,0	119,0
United Kingdom	133,5	120,3	120,3
Culham	100,5		

4.1. Amount of the parental leave allowance referred to in the second paragraph of Article 42a of the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017 — EUR 986,72.

4.2. Amount of the parental leave allowance referred to in the third paragraph of Article 42a of the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017 — EUR 1 315,62.

5.1. Basic amount of the household allowance referred to in Article 1(1) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017 — EUR 184,55.

5.2. Amount of the dependent child allowance referred to in Article 2(1) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017 — EUR 403,25.

5.3. Amount of the education allowance referred to in Article 3(1) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017 — EUR 273,60.

5.4. Amount of the education allowance referred to in Article 3(2) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017 — EUR 98,51.

5.5. Minimum amount of the expatriation allowance referred to in Article 69 of the Staff Regulations and in the second subparagraph of Article 4(1) of Annex VII thereto, applicable from 1 July 2017 — EUR 546,95.

5.6. Amount of the expatriation allowance referred to in Article 134 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, applicable from 1 July 2017 — EUR 393,20.

6.1. Amount of the kilometric allowance referred to in Article 7(2) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017:

EUR 0 for every km from	0 to 200 km
EUR 0,2034 for every km from	201 to 1 000 km
EUR 0,3391 for every km from	1 001 to 2 000 km
EUR 0,2034 for every km from	2 001 to 3 000 km
EUR 0,0677 for every km from	3 001 to 4 000 km
EUR 0,0327 for every km from	4 001 to 10 000 km
EUR 0 for every km over	10 000 km.

6.2. Amount of the flat-rate supplement to the kilometric allowance referred to in Article 7(2) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017:

— EUR 101,71 if the geographical distance between the places referred to in paragraph 1 is between 600 km and 1 200 km,

— EUR 203,42 if the geographical distance between the places referred to in paragraph 1 is greater than 1 200 km

7.1. Amount of the kilometric allowance referred to in Article 8(2) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 January 2018:

EUR 0 for every km from	0 to 200 km
EUR 0,4102 for every km from	201 to 1 000 km
EUR 0,6836 for every km from	1 001 to 2 000 km
EUR 0,4102 for every km from	2 001 to 3 000 km
EUR 0,1366 for every km from	3 001 to 4 000 km
EUR 0,0660 for every km from	4 001 to 10 000 km
EUR 0 for every km over	10 000 km.

7.2. Amount of the flat-rate supplement to the kilometric allowance referred to in Article 8(2) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 January 2018:

— EUR 205,06 if the geographical distance between the place of employment and the place of origin is between 600 km and 1 200 km,

— EUR 410,10 if the geographical distance between the place of employment and the place of origin is greater than 1 200 km

8. Amount of the daily subsistence allowance referred to in Article 10(1) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017:

- EUR 42,39 for an official who is entitled to the household allowance;
- EUR 34,18 for an official who is not entitled to the household allowance.

9. Amount of the lower limit for the installation allowance referred to in Article 24(3) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, applicable from 1 July 2017:

- EUR 1 206,69 for a servant who is entitled to the household allowance;
- EUR 717,49 for a servant who is not entitled to the household allowance.

10.1. Amount of the lower and upper limits of the unemployment allowance referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 28a(3) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, applicable from 1 July 2017:

- EUR 1 447,18 (lower limit);
- EUR 2 894,36 (upper limit).

10.2. Amount of the standard allowance referred to in Article 28a(7) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, applicable from 1 July 2017 — EUR 1 315,62.

11. Table containing the amounts of the scale of basic salaries provided for in Article 93 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, applicable from 1 July 2017:

FUNCTION GROUP	1.7.2017	STEP						
	GRADE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
IV	18	6 312,13	6 443,39	6 577,38	6 714,16	6 853,80	6 996,32	7 141,81
	17	5 578,83	5 694,84	5 813,26	5 934,16	6 057,56	6 183,53	6 312,13
	16	4 930,71	5 033,23	5 137,91	5 244,76	5 353,83	5 465,18	5 578,83
	15	4 357,88	4 448,51	4 541,02	4 635,45	4 731,85	4 830,25	4 930,71
	14	3 851,61	3 931,71	4 013,48	4 096,94	4 182,15	4 269,10	4 357,88
	13	3 404,15	3 474,95	3 547,20	3 620,98	3 696,27	3 773,14	3 851,61
III	12	4 357,82	4 448,44	4 540,95	4 635,37	4 731,76	4 830,15	4 930,60
	11	3 851,58	3 931,66	4 013,42	4 096,87	4 182,07	4 269,04	4 357,82
	10	3 404,14	3 474,93	3 547,18	3 620,95	3 696,24	3 773,11	3 851,58
	9	3 008,68	3 071,25	3 135,11	3 200,32	3 266,87	3 334,79	3 404,14
	8	2 659,17	2 714,47	2 770,92	2 828,53	2 887,36	2 947,40	3 008,68
II	7	3 008,61	3 071,20	3 135,07	3 200,27	3 266,85	3 334,79	3 404,15
	6	2 659,05	2 714,35	2 770,81	2 828,44	2 887,26	2 947,32	3 008,61
	5	2 350,09	2 398,96	2 448,86	2 499,80	2 551,78	2 604,87	2 659,05
	4	2 077,02	2 120,22	2 164,33	2 209,35	2 255,29	2 302,20	2 350,09
I	3	2 558,73	2 611,83	2 666,05	2 721,38	2 777,85	2 835,50	2 894,36
	2	2 262,02	2 308,97	2 356,89	2 405,81	2 455,74	2 506,72	2 558,73
	1	1 999,73	2 041,25	2 083,60	2 126,84	2 170,98	2 216,05	2 262,02

12. Amount of the lower limit for the installation allowance referred to in Article 94 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, applicable from 1 July 2017:

- EUR 907,64 for a servant who is entitled to the household allowance;
- EUR 538,12 for a servant who is not entitled to the household allowance.

13.1. Amount of the lower and upper limits of the unemployment allowance referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 96(3) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, applicable from 1 July 2017:

- EUR 1 085,38 (the lower limit);
- EUR 2 170,75 (the upper limit).

13.2. Amount of the standard allowance referred to in Article 96(7) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants shall be EUR 986,72.

13.3. Amount of the lower and the upper limits for the unemployment allowance referred to in Article 136 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, applicable from 1 July 2017:

- EUR 954,90 (lower limit);
- EUR 2 246,82 (upper limit).

14. Amount of the allowances for shift work laid down in the first subparagraph of Article 1(1) of Council Regulation (ECSC, EEC, Euratom) No 300/76 ⁽¹⁾:

- EUR 413,61;
- EUR 624,28;
- EUR 682,57;
- EUR 930,56.

15. Coefficient, applicable from 1 July 2017 to the to the amounts referred to in Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 260/68 ⁽²⁾ — 5,9705.

16. Table of the amounts provided for in Article 8(2) of Annex XIII to the Staff Regulations, applicable from 1 July 2017:

1.7.2017	STEP							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16	18 310,61	19 080,05	19 881,81	19 881,81	19 881,81	19 881,81		
15	16 183,53	16 863,58	17 572,20	18 061,09	18 310,61	19 080,05		
14	14 303,51	14 904,57	15 530,88	15 962,98	16 183,53	16 863,58	17 572,20	18 310,61
13	12 641,93	13 173,16	13 726,71	14 108,61	14 303,51			
12	11 173,35	11 642,86	12 132,11	12 469,65	12 641,93	13 173,16	13 726,71	14 303,51
11	9 875,37	10 290,33	10 722,75	11 021,08	11 173,35	11 642,86	12 132,11	12 641,93
10	8 728,19	9 094,95	9 477,14	9 740,80	9 875,37	10 290,33	10 722,75	11 173,35
9	7 714,25	8 038,42	8 376,21	8 609,24	8 728,19			
8	6 818,11	7 104,61	7 403,16	7 609,13	7 714,25	8 038,42	8 376,21	8 728,19
7	6 026,07	6 279,29	6 543,16	6 725,20	6 818,11	7 104,61	7 403,16	7 714,25
6	5 326,04	5 549,85	5 783,05	5 943,95	6 026,07	6 279,29	6 543,16	6 818,11
5	4 707,34	4 905,14	5 111,26	5 253,46	5 326,04	5 549,85	5 783,05	6 026,07
4	4 160,50	4 335,32	4 517,49	4 643,18	4 707,34	4 905,14	5 111,26	5 326,04
3	3 677,17	3 831,70	3 992,72	4 103,79	4 160,50	4 335,32	4 517,49	4 707,34
2	3 250,01	3 386,58	3 528,89	3 627,07	3 677,17	3 831,70	3 992,72	4 160,50
1	2 872,47	2 993,17	3 118,94	3 205,73	3 250,01			

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (ECSC, EEC, Euratom) No 300/76 of 9 February 1976 determining the categories of officials entitled to allowances for shiftwork, and the rates and conditions thereof (OJ L 38, 13.2.1976, p. 1). Regulation as supplemented by Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 1307/87 (OJ L 124, 13.5.1987, p. 6).

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 260/68 of the Council of 29 February 1968 laying down the conditions and procedure for applying the tax for the benefit of the European Communities (OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p. 8).

17. Amount, applicable from 1 July 2017, of the fixed allowance mentioned in the former Article 4a of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations, in force before 1 May 2004, which is used for the application of Article 18(1) of Annex XIII to the Staff Regulations:

- EUR 142,68 per month for officials in Grade C4 or C5;
- EUR 218,77 per month for officials in Grade C1, C2 or C3.

18. Table containing the amounts of the scale of basic salaries provided for in Article 133 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, applicable from 1 July 2017:

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Full-time basic salary	1 819,00	2 119,13	2 297,57	2 491,05	2 700,83	2 928,28	3 174,87
Grade	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Full-time basic salary	3 442,24	3 732,11	4 046,39	4 387,13	4 756,58	5 157,12	5 591,42
Grade	15	16	17	18	19		
Full-time basic salary	6 062,27	6 572,79	7 126,29	7 726,39	8 377,05		

Interim update of the weightings applicable to the remuneration of officials, temporary staff and contract staff of the European Union serving in third countries ⁽¹⁾

(2017/C 429/07)

FEBRUARY 2017

Place of employment	Economic parity February 2017	Exchange rate February 2017 (*)	Weighting February 2017 (**)
Sierra Leone	8 809	7 763,60	113,5
Mozambique	42,38	74,6000	56,8
Malawi	451,7	780,761	57,9
Botswana	7,855	11,2233	70,0
Chile	536,2	691,992	77,5
Liberia	1,663	1,06300	156,4
Madagascar	3 318	3 447,30	96,2
Comoros	377,1	491,968	76,7
Sudan	14,55	7,33906	198,3
Barbados	2,823	2,13739	132,1
Argentina	11,57	16,9602	68,2
Nigeria	253,6	327,906	77,3
Azerbaijan	1,267	2,02693	62,5
Belarus	1,382	2,06760	66,8

(*) 1 EUR = x units of local currency, except USD for: Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Liberia, Panama, D.R. Congo, Timor-Leste, Zimbabwe.

(**) Brussels and Luxembourg = 100.

MARCH 2017

Place of employment	Economic parity March 2017	Exchange rate March 2017 (*)	Weighting March 2017 (**)
Egypt	8,592	16,6943	51,5
Tanzania	1 558	2 361,48	66,0
Samoa	2,458	2,66957	92,1
Nicaragua	20,78	31,2919	66,4
Russia	63,69	61,1026	104,2
Ecuador	0,9727	1,05870	91,9
Malaysia	3,182	4,69900	67,7

⁽¹⁾ Eurostat Report of 22 September 2017 on the interim update of weightings (correction coefficients) applicable to the remuneration of officials, temporary staff and contract staff of the European Union serving in Extra-EU Delegations in accordance with Article 64 and Annex X and Annex XI of the Staff Regulations applicable to officials and other servants of the European Union (Ares(2017)4629878). Further information on the methodology is available on the Eurostat website ('Statistics Database' > 'Economy and finance' > 'Prices' > 'Correction coefficients')

Place of employment	Economic parity March 2017	Exchange rate March 2017 (*)	Weighting March 2017 (**)
Georgia	1,649	2,74340	60,1
Uzbekistan	3 073	3 604,19	85,3

(*) 1 EUR = x units of local currency, except USD for: Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Liberia, Panama, D.R. Congo, Timor-Leste, Zimbabwe.
(**) Brussels and Luxembourg = 100.

APRIL 2017

Place of employment	Economic parity April 2017	Exchange rate April 2017 (*)	Weighting April 2017 (**)
Rwanda	758,9	897,381	84,6
Mozambique	44,96	72,4000	62,1
Lesotho	9,373	13,8165	67,8
Ghana	3,802	4,72630	80,4
Angola	323,2	185,388	174,3
Belarus	1,453	2,03510	71,4
Tajikistan	5,049	8,75463	57,7
Ukraine	18,74	29,1548	64,3

(*) 1 EUR = x units of local currency, except USD for: Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Liberia, Panama, D.R. Congo, Timor-Leste, Zimbabwe.
(**) Brussels and Luxembourg = 100.

MAY 2017

Place of employment	Economic parity May 2017	Exchange rate May 2017 (*)	Weighting May 2017 (**)
Brazil	3,577	3,43870	104,0
Botswana	8,272	11,1857	74,0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2,393	1,08810	219,9
Trinidad and Tobago	6,566	7,42100	88,5
Turkey	2,626	3,8797	67,7
Argentina	12,25	16,7459	73,2
Suriname	5,052	8,21189	61,5
Eritrea	20,56	16,6066	123,8

(*) 1 EUR = x units of local currency, except USD for: Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Liberia, Panama, D.R. Congo, Timor-Leste, Zimbabwe.
(**) Brussels and Luxembourg = 100.

JUNE 2017

Place of employment	Economic parity June 2017	Exchange rate June 2017 (*)	Weighting June 2017 (**)
Tanzania	1 658	2 492,38	66,5
Mozambique	47,65	66,8000	71,3
Guyana	179,3	232,260	77,2
Samoa	2,314	2,85135	81,2
Chile	579,2	748,870	77,3
Comoros	398,4	491,968	81,0
Nicaragua	21,82	33,4325	65,3
Bolivia	6,728	7,72054	87,1
Haiti	63,64	70,6186	90,1
Zambia	8,441	10,3911	81,2
Honduras	21,04	26,2302	80,2
Russia	68,41	63,2618	108,1
Ecuador	0,9127	1,11730	81,7
Guatemala	7,606	8,21386	92,6
Nigeria	267,4	341,188	78,4
Belarus	1,536	2,08680	73,6
Moldova	13,45	20,4829	65,7
Kazakhstan	246,8	349,390	70,6
Myanmar	1 021	1 497,18	68,2

(*) 1 EUR = x units of local currency, except USD for: Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Liberia, Panama, D.R. Congo, Timor-Leste, Zimbabwe.

(**) Brussels and Luxembourg = 100.

Annual update of the weightings applicable to the remuneration of officials, temporary staff and contract staff of the European Union serving in third countries ⁽¹⁾

(2017/C 429/08)

Place of employment	Economic parity July 2017	Exchange rate July 2017 (*)	Weighting July 2017 (**)
Afghanistan (***)			
Albania	78,83	131,980	59,7
Algeria	88,26	121,428	72,7
Angola	343,5	185,393	185,3
Argentina	12,64	18,6260	67,9
Armenia	423,5	537,050	78,9
Australia	1,569	1,48680	105,5
Azerbaijan	1,328	1,94272	68,4
Bangladesh	78,39	91,9774	85,2
Barbados	2,839	2,29483	123,7
Belarus	1,581	2,20000	73,5
Belize	1,859	2,28123	81,5
Benin	654,2	655,957	99,7
Bolivia	6,628	7,88638	84,0
Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka) (***)			
Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo)	1,277	1,95583	65,3
Botswana	8,579	11,4155	75,2
Brazil	3,465	3,74760	92,5
Burkina Faso	612,8	655,957	93,4
Burundi	1 634	1 933,63	84,5
Cambodia	3 630	4 595,50	79,0

(1) Eurostat Report of 20 October 2017 on the 2017 annual update of remuneration and pensions of EU officials in accordance with Articles 64 and 65 and Annexes XI to the Staff Regulations, applicable to officials and other servants of the European Union, adjusting with effect from 1 July 2017 the remuneration of active staff and the pensions of retired staff, and updating with effect from 1 July 2017 the correction coefficients applied to the remuneration of active staff serving in Intra-EU and Extra-EU duty stations, to the pensions of retired staff according to their country of residence, and for pension transfers.
Further information on the methodology is available on the Eurostat website ('Statistics Database' > 'Economy and finance' > 'Prices' > 'Correction coefficients')

Place of employment	Economic parity July 2017	Exchange rate July 2017 (*)	Weighting July 2017 (**)
Cameroon	545,0	655,957	83,1
Canada	1,406	1,48670	94,6
Cape Verde	75,48	110,265	68,5
Central African Republic	758,8	655,957	115,7
Chad	623,0	655,957	95,0
Chile	592,5	755,221	78,5
China	6,891	7,74120	89,0
Colombia	2 281	3 436,09	66,4
Comoros	401,7	491,968	81,7
Congo (Brazzaville)	718,9	655,957	109,6
Costa Rica	485,8	651,739	74,5
Cuba (*)	0,8909	1,14130	78,1
Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa) (*)	2,503	1,14130	219,3
Djibouti	177,2	202,833	87,4
Dominican Republic	34,28	53,0356	64,6
Ecuador (*)	0,8918	1,14130	78,1
Egypt	9,055	20,4985	44,2
El Salvador (*)	0,8345	1,14130	73,1
Eritrea	19,94	17,0656	116,8
Ethiopia	19,11	26,0498	73,4
Fiji	1,846	2,30840	80,0
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	30,54	61,6950	49,5
Gabon	722,3	655,957	110,1
Gambia	36,68	52,7800	69,5
Georgia	1,650	2,6921	61,3
Ghana	3,840	4,91735	78,1
Guatemala	7,493	8,37077	89,5

Place of employment	Economic parity July 2017	Exchange rate July 2017 (*)	Weighting July 2017 (**)
Guinea (Conakry)	7 875	10 066,2	78,2
Guinea-Bissau	564,7	655,957	86,1
Guyana	181,1	231,555	78,2
Haiti	64,12	71,8662	89,2
Honduras	20,70	26,7556	77,4
Hong Kong	10,63	8,91070	119,3
Iceland	183,8	118,200	155,5
India	57,97	73,7130	78,6
Indonesia (Banda Aceh) (***)			
Indonesia (Jakarta)	11 587	15 217,0	76,1
Iran (***)			
Iraq (***)			
Israel	4,592	3,98940	115,1
Ivory Coast	626,0	655,957	95,4
Jamaica	122,1	141,111	86,5
Japan	130,8	128,590	101,7
Jordan	0,8352	0,80918	103,2
Kazakhstan	248,6	362,800	68,5
Kenya	105,2	115,883	90,8
Kosovo	0,7141	1,00000	71,4
Kyrgyzstan	58,30	78,5785	74,2
Laos	9 206	9 222,00	99,8
Lebanon	1 698	1 720,51	98,7
Lesotho	9,994	14,8261	67,4
Liberia (*)	1,669	1,141 30	146,2
Libya (***)			
Madagascar	3 191	3 432,07	93,0

Place of employment	Economic parity July 2017	Exchange rate July 2017 (*)	Weighting July 2017 (**)
Malawi	474,6	812,058	58,4
Malaysia	3,191	4,90020	65,1
Mali	645,2	655,957	98,4
Mauritania	287,4	404,790	71,0
Mauritius	29,23	39,4089	74,2
Mexico	12,02	20,4700	58,7
Moldova	13,57	20,5681	66,0
Montenegro	0,6258	1,00000	62,6
Morocco	7,806	10,964	71,2
Mozambique	49,05	67,5000	72,7
Myanmar	1 027	1 552,17	66,2
Namibia	10,05	14,8261	67,8
Nepal	114,6	116,035	98,8
New Caledonia	129,0	119,332	108,1
New Zealand	1,649	1,56510	105,4
Nicaragua	22,23	34,2879	64,8
Niger	556,3	655,957	84,8
Nigeria	271,4	347,545	78,1
Norway	12,20	9,57000	127,5
Pakistan	72,44	119,624	60,6
Panama (*)	0,8561	1,14130	75,0
Papua New Guinea	3,465	3,62893	95,5
Paraguay	4 165	6 347,35	65,6
Peru	3,295	3,71550	88,7
Philippines	44,01	57,7060	76,3
Russia	70,05	67,3005	104,1
Rwanda	763,2	941,859	81,0

Place of employment	Economic parity July 2017	Exchange rate July 2017 (*)	Weighting July 2017 (**)
Samoa	2,273	2,87062	79,2
Saudi Arabia	3,551	4,27988	83,0
Senegal	662,6	655,957	101,0
Serbia	65,12	121,320	53,7
Sierra Leone	8 466	8 375,31	101,1
Singapore	1,954	1,57510	124,1
Solomon Islands	10,12	8,92691	113,4
Somalia (***)			
South Africa	9,235	14,8261	62,3
South Korea	1 192	1 304,08	91,4
South-Sudan (***)			
Sri Lanka	136,4	173,780	78,5
Sudan	15,48	18,6475	83,0
Suriname	5,182	8,56831	60,5
Swaziland	10,66	14,8261	71,9
Switzerland (Bern)	1,397	1,09350	127,8
Switzerland (Geneva)	1,397	1,09350	127,8
Syria (***)			
Taiwan	29,89	34,5611	86,5
Tajikistan	5,181	10,0562	51,5
Tanzania	1 694	2 492,60	68,0
Thailand	30,36	38,7870	78,3
Timor Leste (*)	1,016	1,14130	89,0
Togo	522,7	655,957	79,7
Trinidad and Tobago	6,392	7,71960	82,8
Tunisia	1,878	2,76920	67,8
Turkey	2,656	4,01430	66,2

Place of employment	Economic parity July 2017	Exchange rate July 2017 (*)	Weighting July 2017 (**)
Turkmenistan	2,741	3,99455	68,6
Uganda	2 776	4 021,51	69,0
Ukraine	20,17	29,7652	67,8
United Arab Emirates	3,913	4,17370	93,8
United States (New York)	1,186	1,141 30	103,9
United States (Washington)	1,044	1,141 30	91,5
Uruguay	31,74	32,3399	98,1
Uzbekistan	3 146	4 517,90	69,6
Vanuatu	136,3	124,930	109,1
Venezuela (***)			
Vietnam	15 260	25 953,2	58,8
West Bank — Gaza Strip (***)			
Yemen (***)			
Zambia	8,338	10,4537	79,8
Zimbabwe (*)	1,035	1,141 30	90,7

(*) 1 EURO = x units of local currency (USD for Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Liberia, Panama, D.R. Congo, Timor-Leste and Zimbabwe).

(**) Brussels and Luxembourg = 100 %.

(***) Not available because of local instability or unreliable data.

COURT OF AUDITORS

Special Report No 21/2017

'Greening: a more complex income support scheme, not yet environmentally effective'

(2017/C 429/09)

The European Court of Auditors hereby informs you that Special Report No 21/2017 'Greening: a more complex income support scheme, not yet environmentally effective' has just been published.

The report can be accessed for consultation or downloading on the European Court of Auditors' website:
<http://eca.europa.eu>

NOTICES CONCERNING THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

Public holidays in 2018: EEA EFTA States and EEA institutions

(2017/C 429/10)

	Iceland	Liechtenstein	Norway	EFTA Surveillance Authority	EFTA Court
Monday 1 January	X	X	X	X	X
Tuesday 2 January		X		X	X
Friday 2 February		X			
Monday 12 February					X
Tuesday 13 February		X			
Monday 19 March		X			
Thursday 29 March	X		X	X	X
Friday 30 March	X	X	X	X	X
Monday 2 April	X	X	X	X	X
Thursday 19 April	X				
Monday 30 April					X
Tuesday 1 May	X	X	X	X	X
Thursday 10 May	X	X	X	X	X
Friday 11 May				X	X
Thursday 17 May			X		
Monday 21 May	X	X	X	X	X
Thursday 31 May		X			
Monday 6 August	X				
Wednesday 15 August		X		X	X
Monday 3 September					X
Thursday 1 November		X		X	X

	Iceland	Liechtenstein	Norway	EFTA Surveillance Authority	EFTA Court
Friday 2 November				X	X
Monday 24 December	X	X		X	X
Tuesday 25 December	X	X	X	X	X
Wednesday 26 December	X	X	X	X	X
Thursday 27 December				X	X
Friday 28 December				X	X
Monday 31 December	X	X		X	X

Public holidays falling on Saturdays and Sundays are not listed.

State aid — Decision to raise no objections

(2017/C 429/11)

The EFTA Surveillance Authority raises no objections to the following state aid measure:

Date of adoption of the decision:	14 September 2017
Case No:	81018
Decision No:	156/17/COL
EFTA State:	Norway
Title:	Amendment to the tax refund scheme for employing seafarers 2016-2026
Legal basis:	Regulation of 26 February 2016 No 204 on refunds for employing seafarers section 13a
Type of measure:	Scheme
Objective:	Maritime transport
Form of aid:	Tax and social security refunds
Budget:	Annual increase of NOK 80 million
Duration:	10 years from 1 March 2016 to 28 February 2026
Economic sectors:	Maritime transport
Name and address of the granting authority:	Norwegian Maritime Authority P.O.Box 2222 NO-5509 Haugesund Norway

Other information:

The authentic text of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found on the EFTA Surveillance Authority's website:

<http://www.eftasurv.int/state-aid/state-aid-register/>

V

(Announcements)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

EUROPEAN PERSONNEL SELECTION OFFICE (EPSO)

NOTICE OF OPEN COMPETITION

(2017/C 429/12)

The European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) is organising the following open competition:

EPSO/AST/144/17 — LINGUISTIC ASSISTANTS (AST 1) for the following languages:

Bulgarian (BG), German (DE), English (EN), French (FR), Romanian (RO) and Swedish (SV)

The competition notice is published in 24 languages in *Official Journal of the European Union* C 429 A of 14 December 2017.

Further information can be found on the EPSO website: <https://epso.europa.eu/>

COURT PROCEEDINGS

EFTA COURT

Request for an Advisory Opinion from the EFTA Court by Héraðsdómur Reykjavíkur dated 30 June 2017 in the case of Fjarskipti hf. v Síminn hf.**(Case E-6/17)**

(2017/C 429/13)

A request has been made to the EFTA Court by a letter dated 30 June 2017 from Héraðsdómur Reykjavíkur (Reykjavik District Court), which was received at the Court Registry on 19 July 2017, for an Advisory Opinion in the case of Fjarskipti hf. v Síminn hf. on the following questions:

1. Does it constitute part of the effective implementation of the EEA Agreement that a natural or a legal person in an EFTA State should be able to invoke Article 54 of the Agreement before a domestic court in order to claim compensation for a violation of the prohibitions of that provision?
 2. When assessing whether the conditions are fulfilled for a compensation claim in view of a violation of competition rules, is it of significance whether the competent authorities have delivered a final ruling on a violation of Article 54 EEA?
 3. Is it regarded as an unlawful margin squeeze, violating Article 54 EEA, when an undertaking in a dominant position on a wholesale market sets termination rates applying to its competitors in such a way that the dominant undertaking's own retail division would be unable to profit from the sale of telephone calls within its system if it had to bear the cost of selling them under the same circumstances, when the dominant undertaking itself is also obliged to purchase termination from these same competitors at a higher price than that at which it sells termination to its competitors?
 4. Is the fact that an undertaking is in a dominant position on the relevant wholesale market sufficient for it to be guilty of applying an unlawful margin squeeze, violating Article 54 EEA, or must the undertaking also be in a dominant position on the relevant retail market?
-

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.8710 — JD/Sonae MC/Balaiko/JDSH/Sport Zone)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2017/C 429/14)

1. On 5 December 2017 the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾.

This notification concerns the following undertakings:

- JD Sports Fashion Plc (JD) (England and Wales), controlled by Pentland Group, a privately held British company,
- Sonae MC — Modelo e Continente, SGPS, S.A. (Sonae MC) (Portugal), indirectly controlled by Efanor Investimentos SGPS, SA,
- Balaiko Firaja Invest, S. L (Balaiko) (Spain), wholly owned by Serraga family,
- JD Sprinter Holdings 2010, SL (JDSH) (Spain), controlled by JD and Balaiko,
- SDSR — Sports Division SR, S.A. (Sport Zone) (Portugal), belonging to the Sonae MC group.

JD, Sonae MC and Balaiko acquire(s) within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and Article 3(4) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of JDSH and Sport Zone.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- JD: retail of sports apparel and footwear; operation of fitness centres in the United Kingdom. JD is controlled by Pentland Group, which is active in the wholesale supply of branded outdoor products to outdoor retailers.
- Sonae MC: retail and wholesale trade in food and non-food products and management of related real estate assets.
- Balaiko: investment vehicle company.
- JDSH: retail trade in sports goods in Portugal and Spain under the banner brands JD, 'size?' and Sprinter.
- SPZ: retail trade in sports goods in Portugal and Spain under the banner brand Sport Zone.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the Merger Regulation. 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. The following reference should always be specified:

M.8710 — JD/Sonae MC/Balaiko/JDSH/Sport Zone

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

Observations can be sent to the Commission by email, by fax, or by post. Please use the contact details below:

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