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Contents

I *Resolutions, recommendations and opinions*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council

II *Information*

INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

European Commission

EN

(1) Text with EEA relevance.

IV *Notices*

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

Council

European Commission

V *Announcements*

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

European Investment Bank

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

European Commission

(1) Text with EEA relevance.

OTHER ACTS

European Commission

I

(Resolutions, recommendations and opinions)

RECOMMENDATIONS

COUNCIL

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

of 22 June 2018

with a view to correcting the significant observed deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective in Hungary

(2018/C 223/01)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 121(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 of 7 July 1997 on the strengthening of the surveillance of budgetary positions and the surveillance and coordination of economic policies [1], and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 10(2) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) In accordance with Article 121 of the Treaty, Member States are to promote sound public finances over the medium term through the coordination of economic policies and multilateral surveillance in order to avoid the occurrence of excessive government deficits.

(2) The Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) is based on the objective of sound government finances as a means of strengthening the conditions for price stability and for strong sustainable growth conducive to employment creation.

(3) On 12 July 2016, the Council recommended that Hungary achieve a fiscal adjustment of 0,6 % of GDP in 2017 unless the medium-term budgetary objective was respected with a lower effort [2].

(4) Based on the Commission 2018 spring forecast and the 2017 outturn data validated by Eurostat, the growth of government expenditure, net of discretionary revenue measures and one-offs, was well above the applicable expenditure benchmark rate in 2017, which indicates a significant deviation from the required structural adjustment (namely a deviation of 2,4 % of GDP). In 2017, from a position of – 1,8 % of potential GDP in 2016, the structural balance deteriorated to – 3,1 % of GDP, which also indicates a significant deviation (namely a deviation of 1,4 % of GDP). The overall assessment indicated that the expenditure benchmark was negatively affected by three elements, namely a too-low medium-term potential growth rate and GDP deflator underlying the expenditure benchmark as well as a permanent revenue effect. After correcting for these factors, the expenditure benchmark appears to adequately reflect the fiscal effort and indicates a significant deviation. This conclusion is confirmed by the assessment of the structural balance pillar, which, after taking into account the impacts of decreasing interest expenditure, investment volatility and a revenue windfall, still indicates a significant deviation. The overall assessment therefore leads to the conclusion that the observed deviation from the medium-term budgetary objective in 2017 is significant.

(5) On 23 May 2018, following an overall assessment, the Commission considered that a significant observed deviation from the adjustment path towards the medium-term budgetary objective exists in Hungary and issued a warning to Hungary in accordance with Article 121(4) of the Treaty and the first subparagraph of Article 10(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1466/97.

[1] OJ L 209, 2.8.1997, p. 1.
[2] Council Recommendation of 12 July 2016 on the 2016 National Reform Programme of Hungary and delivering a Council opinion on the 2016 Convergence Programme of Hungary (OJ C 299, 18.8.2016, p. 49).

(6) In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 10(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1466/97, within one month of the date of the adoption of the warning, the Council is to address a recommendation to the Member State concerned to take the necessary policy measures. Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 provides that the recommendation will set a deadline of no more than five months for the Member State to address the deviation. On that basis, a deadline of 15 October 2018 for Hungary to address the deviation appears appropriate. Within that deadline, Hungary should report on action taken in response to this Recommendation.

(7) Hungary's structural balance in 2017 is estimated to have been 1,6 % of GDP away from its medium-term budgetary objective of a structural deficit of – 1,5 % of GDP. Based on the output gap projections of the Commission 2018 spring forecast, Hungary is in good economic times in 2018. Hungary's general government debt ratio is above the 60 %-of-GDP threshold. The minimum required structural effort prescribed by Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 and the commonly agreed adjustment matrix under the SGP, which factors in the prevailing economic circumstances and sustainability concerns, amounts to at least 1 % of GDP for 2018. The Commission 2018 spring forecast projects a further deterioration of the structural balance by 0,5 % of GDP in 2018. Therefore, a minimum structural improvement of 1 % of GDP in 2018 translates into a need to adopt measures of a total yield of 1,5 % of GDP compared to the current baseline in the Commission 2018 spring forecast. Given the significant size of the required structural consolidation effort resulting from the minimum adjustment requirement, it is appropriate that no additional adjustment be required on top of the minimum 1 % of GDP requirement.

(8) The required improvement of the structural balance by 1 % of GDP in 2018 is consistent with the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure not exceeding 2,8 % in 2018.

(9) It is appropriate that this Recommendation be made public.

(10) In order to achieve the recommended budgetary targets, it is crucial that Hungary adopt and strictly implement the necessary measures and monitor the development of current expenditure closely,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS THAT HUNGARY:

(1) take the necessary measures to ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 2,8 % in 2018, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 1 % of GDP, thereby putting the Member State on an appropriate adjustment path towards the medium-term budgetary objective;

(2) use any windfall gains for deficit reduction; budgetary consolidation measures should secure a lasting improvement in the general government structural balance in a growth-friendly manner;

(3) report to the Council by 15 October 2018 on action taken in response to this Recommendation; the report should provide sufficiently specified and credibly announced measures, including budgetary impact of each of them, as well as updated and detailed budgetary projections for 2018.

This Recommendation is addressed to Hungary.

Done at Luxembourg, 22 June 2018.

For the Council

The President

V. GORANOV

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

of 22 June 2018

with a view to correcting the significant observed deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective in Romania

(2018/C 223/02)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 121(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 of 7 July 1997 on the strengthening of the surveillance of budgetary positions and the surveillance and coordination of economic policies [1], and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 10(2) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) In accordance with Article 121 of the Treaty, Member States are to promote sound public finances over the medium term through the coordination of economic policies and multilateral surveillance in order to avoid the occurrence of excessive government deficits.

(2) The Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) is based on the objective of sound government finances as a means of strengthening the conditions for price stability and for strong sustainable growth conducive to employment creation.

(3) On 16 June 2017, the Council recommended [2] that Romania take the necessary measures to ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure [3] does not exceed 3,3 % in 2017, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,5 % of GDP, thereby putting the country on an appropriate adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective. On 5 December 2017, the Council concluded that Romania had not taken effective action in response to the Council Recommendation of 16 June 2017. On that basis, on 5 December 2017, the Council issued a revised Recommendation [4] for Romania to take the necessary measures to ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 3,3 % in 2018, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,8 % of GDP.

(4) In 2017, based on the Commission 2018 spring forecast and the 2017 outturn data validated by Eurostat, the growth of net primary government expenditure was well above the expenditure benchmark, which indicates a significant deviation by a large margin (namely a deviation of 3,3 % of GDP). The structural balance deteriorated to -3,3 % of GDP from a position of -2,1 % of GDP in 2016, which also indicates a significant deviation from the recommended structural adjustment by a large margin (namely a deviation of 1,7 % of GDP). The size of the deviation indicated by the structural balance is negatively impacted by a higher point estimate for potential GDP growth compared to the medium-term average underlying the expenditure benchmark, as well as by a drop in public investment, which is smoothed out in the expenditure benchmark. Irrespective of that difference, both indicators confirm a significant deviation from the requirements of the preventive arm of the SGP in 2017.

(5) On 23 May 2018, following an overall assessment, the Commission considered that a significant observed deviation from the adjustment path towards the medium-term budgetary objective exists in Romania and issued a warning to Romania in accordance with Article 121(4) of the Treaty and the first subparagraph of Article 10(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1466/97.

(6) In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 10(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1466/97, within one month of the date of the adoption of the warning, the Council is to address a recommendation to the Member State concerned to take the necessary policy measures. Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 provides that the recommendation will set a deadline of no more than five months for the Member State to address the deviation. On that basis a deadline of 15 October 2018 for Romania to address the deviation appears appropriate. Within that deadline, Romania should report on action taken in response to this Recommendation.

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(1) OJ L 209, 2.8.1997, p. 1.

(2) Council Recommendation of 16 June 2017 with a view to correcting the significant observed deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective in Romania (OJ C 216, 6.7.2017, p. 1).

(3) Net primary government expenditure is comprised of total government expenditure excluding interest expenditure, expenditure on Union programmes fully matched by Union funds revenue and non-discretionary changes in unemployment benefit expenditure. Nationally financed gross fixed capital formation is smoothed over a four-year period. Discretionary revenue measures or revenue increases mandated by law are factored in. One-off measures on both the revenue and expenditure sides are netted out.

(4) Council Recommendation of 5 December 2017 with a view to correcting the significant observed deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective in Romania (OJ C 439, 20.12.2017, p. 1).

(7) Based on the output gap projections of the Commission 2017 spring forecast, Romania is in normal economic times in 2018 and 2019. Romania's general government debt ratio is below the 60 %-of-GDP threshold. Henceforth, the minimum required structural effort prescribed by Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 and the commonly agreed adjustment matrix under the SGP, which factors in the prevailing economic circumstances and possible sustainability concerns, amounts to 0,5 % of GDP for both 2018 and 2019.

(8) Romania's structural deficit has increased by 2,1 % of GDP in 2016 and by 1,2 % of GDP in 2017, to 3,3 % of GDP in 2017. An additional and persistent effort necessary to correct the cumulated deviation and to bring Romania back on an appropriate adjustment path following the slippages in 2016 and 2017 should complement the minimum adjustment requirement. An additional effort of 0,3 % of GDP seems appropriate given the magnitude of the significant observed deviation from the recommended adjustment path towards the medium-term budgetary objective and it will accelerate the adjustment back towards the medium-term budgetary objective.

(9) The required improvement of the structural balance by 0,8 % of GDP in both 2018 and 2019 is consistent with the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure not exceeding 3,3 % in 2018 and 5,1 % in 2019.

(10) The Commission 2018 spring forecast projects a further deterioration of the structural balance by 0,4 % of GDP in 2018 and by a further 0,4 % of GDP in 2019. Therefore, a structural improvement of 0,8 % of GDP in both 2018 and 2019 translates into a need to adopt measures of a total structural yield of 1,2 % of GDP in 2018 and additional measures of a structural yield of 1,2 % of GDP in 2019 compared to the current baseline in the Commission 2018 spring forecast.

(11) The Commission 2018 spring forecast projects a general government deficit of 3,4 % of GDP in 2018 and 3,8 % of GDP in 2019, which is above the 3 %-of-GDP Treaty reference value. The required structural adjustment seems also appropriate to ensure that Romania respects the 3 %-of-GDP Treaty reference value in 2018 and 2019 with a margin.

(12) The failure to act upon earlier recommendations to correct the significant observed deviation and the risk of exceeding the 3 %-of-GDP Treaty reference value call for urgent action to put Romania's fiscal policy back on a prudent path.

(13) It is appropriate that this Recommendation be made public.

(14) In order to achieve the recommended budgetary targets, it is crucial that Romania adopt and strictly implement the necessary measures and monitor the development of current expenditure closely,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS THAT ROMANIA:

(1) take the necessary measures to ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 3,3 % in 2018 and 5,1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,8 % of GDP in each year, thereby putting the Member State on an appropriate adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective;

(2) use any windfall gains for deficit reduction; budgetary consolidation measures should secure a lasting improvement in the general government structural balance in a growth-friendly manner;

(3) report to the Council by 15 October 2018 on action taken in response to this Recommendation; the report should provide sufficiently specified and credibly announced measures, including budgetary impact of each of them, as well as updated and detailed budgetary projections for 2018-2019.

This Recommendation is addressed to Romania.

Done at Luxembourg, 22 June 2018.

For the Council

The President

V. GORANOV

II

(Information)

INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Non-opposition to a notified concentration

(Case M.8945 — Permira/Cisco (Target Businesses))

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2018/C 223/03)

On 19 June 2018, 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 32018M8945. 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.8922 — Phoenix PIB Austria/Farmexim and Help Net Farma)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2018/C 223/04)

On 22 June 2018, 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 32018M8922. 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.8890 — BNP Paribas/ABN AMRO Bank Luxembourg)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2018/C 223/05)

On 22 June 2018, 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 32018M8890. 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 DECISION

of 22 June 2018

adopting the Council's position on draft amending budget No 3 of the European Union for the financial year 2018

(2018/C 223/06)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 314 thereof, in conjunction with the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 106a thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 [1] and in particular Article 41 thereof,

Whereas:

— the Union's budget for the financial year 2018 was definitively adopted on 30 November 2017 [2],

— on 23 May 2018, the Commission submitted a proposal containing draft amending budget No 3 to the general budget for the financial year 2018,

— so as to be able to cover funding needs related to the extension of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey and thus ensure continuity, draft amending budget No 3 to the general budget for 2018 needs to be adopted without delay. Therefore, it is justified to shorten, in accordance with Article 3(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, the eight-week period for the information of national Parliaments laid down in Article 4 of Protocol No 1,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The Council's position on draft amending budget No 3 of the European Union for the financial year 2018 was adopted on 22 June 2018.

The full text can be accessed for consultation or downloading on the Council's website: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/

Done at Luxembourg, 22 June 2018.

For the Council

The President

V. GORANOV

[1] OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

[2] OJ L 57, 28.2.2018, p. 1.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates [1]

26 June 2018

(2018/C 223/07)

1 euro =

	Currency	Exchange rate		Currency	Exchange rate
USD	US dollar	1,1672	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,5549
JPY	Japanese yen	127,95	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	9,1608
DKK	Danish krone	7,4510	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,6998
GBP	Pound sterling	0,88160	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,5892
SEK	Swedish krona	10,3383	KRW	South Korean won	1 306,32
CHF	Swiss franc	1,1543	ZAR	South African rand	15,8232
ISK	Iceland króna	125,20	CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	7,6749
NOK	Norwegian krone	9,4718	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,3810
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	16 548,56
CZK	Czech koruna	25,900	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	4,6956
HUF	Hungarian forint	326,00	PHP	Philippine peso	62,714
PLN	Polish zloty	4,3410	RUB	Russian rouble	73,5257
RON	Romanian leu	4,6669	THB	Thai baht	38,523
TRY	Turkish lira	5,4053	BRL	Brazilian real	4,4051
AUD	Australian dollar	1,5778	MXN	Mexican peso	23,2370
			INR	Indian rupee	79,7095

[1] *Source*: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

V

(Announcements)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Results of the call for proposals — EIB Institute's EIBURS sponsorship

(2018/C 223/08)

The EIB-University Research Sponsorship Programme (EIBURS) is part of the EIB Institute's Knowledge Programme, through which the EIB fosters relationships with universities and research centres. EIBURS provides grants of up to EUR 100 000 per year for a period of three years to universities and research centres working on topics selected by the EIB Institute and of major interest to the EIB Group. The grants are awarded through a competitive process to interested entities in the EU, candidate countries or potential candidate countries, with recognised expertise in areas of direct interest to the EIB Group. The grant seeks to enable the chosen university or research centres to expand their activities in these areas.

For the period 2018-2020, the EIBURS programme selected two new research topics:

— 'The economic effects of a joint European Security and Defence Policy': the call for proposals was published in OJ C 60 of 16 February 2018 and the EIB Institute received 5 proposals from 4 different countries,

— 'Improving the measurement of the indirect effects of investment projects: specifying and calibrating EIA methods to maximise compatibility with CBA': the call for proposals was published in OJ C 65 of 21 February 2018 and the EIB Institute received 4 proposals from 4 different countries.

On 6 June 2018, the EIB Institute's Internal Steering Group (ISG) decided to award:

— the EIBURS grant on 'The economic effects of a joint European Security and Defence Policy' to the University of Bologna (Italy),

— the EIBURS grant on 'Improving the measurement of the indirect effects of investment projects: specifying and calibrating EIA methods to maximise compatibility with CBA' to the Universidad Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain).

All applicants for both EIBURS grants have been directly informed of these results.

For more extensive information on EIBURS and the other Knowledge Programme initiatives, please visit the Knowledge Programme page of the EIB Institute's website.

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.8910 — Bouygues Construction S.A./Alpiq InTec AG/Kraftanlagen München GmbH)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2018/C 223/09)

1. On 13 June 2018, 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:

— Bouygues Construction S.A. ('Bouygues Construction', France),

— Alpiq InTec AG ('Alpiq InTec', Switzerland), belonging to Alpiq Group,

— Kraftanlagen München GmbH ('KAM', Germany), belonging to Alpiq Group.

Bouygues Construction acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of the whole of Alpiq InTec and KAM, which together constitute the Engineering Services division of Alpiq group.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for Bouygues Construction: construction, real estate development, media and telecommunications,

— for Alpiq InTec: building technology, facility management and transport and energy supply technology,

— for KAM: energy and power plant technology, nuclear technology, utility services and engineering services for industrial plants.

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.

Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under the 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. The following reference should always be specified:

M.8910 — Bouygues Construction S.A./Alpiq InTec AG/Kraftanlagen München GmbH

([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').
([2]) OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

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

Email: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu

Fax +32 22964301

Postal address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.8975 — CVC Capital Partners/Mehiläinen Holding)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2018/C 223/10)

1. On 20 June 2018, 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:

— CVC Capital Partners SICAV-FIS S.A. ('CVC', Luxembourg),

— Mehiläinen Holding AB ('Mehiläinen', Sweden).

CVC acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of Mehiläinen by the way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for CVC: managing investment funds and platforms,

— for Mehiläinen: holding company of Mehiläinen Oy, which provides healthcare and social care services in Finland.

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.

Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under the 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. The following reference should always be specified:

M.8975 — CVC Capital Partners/Mehiläinen Holding

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

Email: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu

Fax +32 22964301

Postal address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').
([2]) OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

OTHER ACTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Information about the follow-up brought to the complaint registered under reference CHAP(2013) 2466

(2018/C 223/11)

The European Commission refers to the series of complaints it has received concerning the checks made by the Spanish authorities at the border with Gibraltar. The initial acknowledgment of receipt was published in the OJ (OJ 2013/C 246/07).

The Commission hereby wishes to inform the complainants that it has not been in a position to arrive at a decision to issue a formal notice or to close the case, as the complaint requires further verification of the evolution of the situation for persons going from Spain to Gibraltar (and vice versa), which is currently in progress.

The Commission will keep the complainants informed on the follow-up given to their complaints.

Publication of applications for the modification of a traditional term pursuant to Article 42a of Commission Regulation (EC) No 607/2009 laying down certain detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 as regards protected designations of origin and geographical indications, traditional terms, labelling and presentation of certain wine sector products

(2018/C 223/12)

This publication confers the right to object to the application, pursuant to Article 37 of Regulation (EC) No 607/2009. Statements of objection must reach the Commission within two months from the date of this publication.

Application for the modification of the traditional term

'CRU CLASSÉ'

Date of receipt: 21.12.2017

Language of the application: French

File number: TDT-FR-A1646

Applicant:

Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation
DGPE
3, rue Barbet de Jouy
75349 Paris SP
FRANCE

Denomination: Cru classé

'Cru classé' is a traditional term under Article 112(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

The traditional term 'cru classé' may be accompanied by the terms 'grand', 'premier grand', 'deuxième', 'troisième', 'quatrième', 'cinquième'

Language of the traditional term: French

List of protected designations of origin or geographical indications concerned

The traditional term 'cru classé' can be used to describe wines with the following protected designations of origin:

— Barsac

— Côtes de Provence

— Graves

— Saint-Emilion-Grand-Cru

— Médoc

— Haut-Médoc

— Margaux

— Pauillac

— Pessac-Léognan

— Saint-Julien

— Saint-Estèphe

— Sauternes

Grapevine products categories

The traditional term 'cru classé' can be used to describe wine as defined under point 1 of Annex VII, Part II, of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.

Modification

The modification introduces the possibility to accompany the traditional term 'cru classé' with the indication '1855'.

The purpose of this amendment is to allow the traditional term 'cru classé', whether supplemented or not by 'grand', 'premier grand', 'deuxième', 'troisième', 'quatrième', 'cinquième', to be accompanied by the 'indication' 1855'. This possibility is limited to Bordeaux wines from wineries classified by the Chambre de Commerce de Bordeaux in the context of the Universal Expo of Paris of 1855 and belonging to one of the following protected denominations of origin:

— Barsac

— Haut-Médoc

— Margaux

— Pauillac

— Pessac-Léognan

— Saint-Julien

— Saint-Estèphe

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