

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3368 — CD&R Fund VI/VWR)****Candidate case for simplified procedure**

(2004/C 62/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 3 March 2004 the Commission received a 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 undertaking Clayton, Dubilier and Rice Fund VI Limited Partnership ('CD&R Fund VI', Cayman Islands), controlled by Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Inc. ('CD&R', USA) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, control of the whole of VWR International Corporation ('VWR', USA), from Merck KGaA ('Merck', Germany), by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- CD&R Fund VI: private equity investments for CD&R,
- CD&R: private equity investments,
- VWR: distribution of scientific and laboratory supplies,
- Merck: pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

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.3368 — CD&R Fund VI/VWR, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Merger Registry,
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.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 217, 29.7.2000, p. 32.