V

(Announcements)

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.8832 — Knauf/Armstrong)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2018/C 232/05)

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:

— Knauf International GmbH (Germany),

— Armstrong World Industries, Inc. (United States)

Knauf International GmbH ('Knauf') will acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control over (i) subsidiaries of Armstrong World Industries, Inc. ('Armstrong') in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA), and Asia Pacific (APAC), and (ii) designated subsidiaries of Armstrong's joint venture with Worthington Industries with operations in EMEA and APAC (jointly 'the Target').

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

The concentration has been referred to the Commission by the Austrian Federal Competition Authority, pursuant to Article 22(3) of the Merger Regulation. The referral was subsequently joined by Germany, Lithuania, Spain and the United Kingdom.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— Knauf is a manufacturer of insulation materials, dry-lining systems, plasters, and other products.

— Armstrong designs and manufactures commercial and residential ceiling, wall and suspension system solutions.

— The Target is active in the manufacture and sale of modular suspended ceilings in EMEA and APAC, and consists of the ceiling business of Armstrong outside of the Americas.

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.8832 — Knauf/Armstrong

([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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