V

(Announcements)

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.10378 – VUB / SLOVENSKA SPORITELNA / TATRA BANKA / 365.BANK / CSOB / JV)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2022/C 134/08)

1. On 17 March 2022, 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:

— Všeobecná úverová banka, a.s. ('VUB', Slovakia), controlled by Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A. (Italy),

— Slovenská sporiteľňa, a.s. ('Slovenska Sporitelna', Slovakia), controlled by Erste Group Bank AG (Austria),

— Tatra banka, a.s. ('Tatra Banka', Slovakia), controlled by Raiffeisen Bank International AG (Austria),

— 365.bank, a.s. ('365.bank', Slovakia; before 3 July 2021 registered as Poštová banka, a.s.), controlled by J&T FINANCE GROUP SE (Czechia),

— Československá obchodná banka, a.s. ('CSOB', Slovakia), controlled by KBC Group N.V. (Belgium).

VUB, Slovenska Sporitelna, Tatra Banka, 365.bank and CSOB will acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control of a newly created joint venture (the 'JV').

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares in a newly created company constituting a joint venture.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned:

— VUB, Slovenska Sporitelna, Tatra Banka, 365.bank and CSOB are commercial banks in Slovakia active in retail and corporate banking,

— The JV will provide cash handling, cash in transit and cash management services.

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.

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

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.10378 – VUB / SLOVENSKA SPORITELNA / TATRA BANKA / 365.BANK / CSOB / JV

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

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