Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.10001 — Microsoft/Zenimax)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2021/C 40/10)

1. On 29 January 2021, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 and following a referral pursuant to Article 4(5) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ([1]).

This notification concerns the following undertakings:

— Microsoft Corporation ('Microsoft', USA),

— ZeniMax Media Inc. ('ZeniMax', USA)

Microsoft acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of the whole of ZeniMax. The concentration is accomplished by way of a merger pursuant to which a newly created Microsoft subsidiary ('Vault') will be merged with and into ZeniMax.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for Microsoft: a global technology company. Microsoft offers a wide range of products and services to customers through the following operating segments: (i) Productivity and Business Processes, (ii) Intelligent Cloud and (iii) More Personal Computing. This Transaction primarity concerns Microsoft's gaming business, part of the More Personal Computing operating segment. Microsoft develops, publishes and distributes games for personal computers ('PCs'), video game consoles and mobile devices. Microsoft also offers the Xbox gaming console.

— for ZeniMax: a privately held company. ZeniMax develops and publishes games for PCs, consoles, and mobile devices.

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.10001 — Microsoft/Zenimax

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