Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9525 — EPE/OCH/Omnicare)

Candidate case for a simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2019/C 307/08)

1. On 4 September 2019, 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:

— Equistone Partners Europe Limited ('Equistone', United Kingdom),

— Omnicare Holding GmbH & Co. KG ('OCH', Germany),

— Omnicare Beteiligungen GmbH ('Omnicare', Germany).

The proposed concentration consist of the acquisition of joint control, within the meaning of Articles 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation, by Equistone and OCH over Omnicare.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— Equistone is a private equity investment firm active in the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Switzerland. Funds controlled by Equistone are investing in companies from various business sectors such as consumer and travel, financial services, specialist engineering and support services,

— Omnicare is mainly active in: (i) specialty pharma distribution (oncological pharmaceutical products), (ii) services for compounding pharmacies, (iii) holding of participations in certain outpatient oncological medical centres and (iv) clinics for treatment of mental and psychosomatic disorders and diseases.

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.9525 — EPE/OCH/Omnicare

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').
([2]) OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.