Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9686 – Mitsui/ Belchim Crop Protection)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2020/C 447/09)

1. On 15 December 2020, 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:

— Mitsui & Co Ltd ('Mitsui', Japan),

— Belchim Crop Protection NV ('Belchim', Belgium)

Mitsui acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of Belchim

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for Mitsui: Mitsui is a Japanese general trading company. Its business covers several industries and products, in particular agricultural and chemical products for crop protection. Mitsui is active in crop protection in the EEA through its subsidiaries Certis, Spiess-Urania and Japan Agro Services.

— for Belchim: Belchim is active in the development and commercialisation of agricultural products for crop protection. Belchim is active in the EEA under its own name and those of its subsidiaries Orchem, Nordisk Alkali, Protex and Proagro.

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.9686 – Mitsui/ Belchim Crop Protection

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').