V

(Announcements)

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9602 — Banco Santander/Allianz Popular)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2019/C 419/08)

1. On 4 December 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:

— Banco Santander, S.A. ('Banco Santander', Spain),

— Allianz Popular, S.L. ('Allianz Popular', Spain),

Banco Santander acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of Allianz Popular.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for Santander: mainly active in retail banking, treasury and insurance,

— for Allianz Popular: Insurance, pension funds and asset management sectors in Spain. It is currently jointly controlled by Banco Santander and Allianz Europe, a subsidiary of Allianz SE ('Allianz').

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.9602 — Banco Santander/Allianz Popular

([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').
([2]) OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

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

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