PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9866 – United Group/Forthnet)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2020/C 234/04)

1. On 9 July 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:

— NEWCO United Group Hellas S.A.R.L. ('NewCo', Luxembourg), a wholly owned subsidiary of United Group BV ('United Group', Netherlands), which is ultimately solely controlled by BC Partners LLP ('BC Partners', United Kingdom),

— Hellenic Telecommunications and Telematic Applications S.A. ('Forthnet', Greece).

United Group, through NewCo, acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of Forthnet.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for United Group: provider of telecoms and media services in South East Europe, where it operates a multi-play cable and media platform,

— for Forthnet: telecommunications operator, active in Greece and Cyprus, under the brand 'NOVA'. It provides fixed telephony, fixed broadband and pay-TV services (both via satellite and internet (through so called 'over-the-top' services) to residential, business and institutional customers.

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.9866 – United Group/Forthnet

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

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

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