Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9735 — Amex/GBT)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2020/C 56/11)

1. On 10 February 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:

— American Express Company ('Amex', United States);

— GBT JerseyCo Limited ('GBT', Jersey), currently controlled by Amex and Qatar Holding LLC.

Amex acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of the whole of GBT.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares from Qatar Holding LLC and other shareholders by third parties, thereby reducing the shares of Qatar Holding LLC in GBT.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for Amex: multinational financial services. Amex, together with its consolidated subsidiaries, provides credit card financial services and business and leisure travel services to consumers and businesses around the world. Amex is active in payment card issuing and merchant acquiring worldwide.

— for GBT: provision of travel agency services to businesses, active globally.

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.9735 — Amex/GBT

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:

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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.