EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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PUBLIC VERSION

Global Payments Inc.
3550 Lenox Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
United States of America

Erste Group Bank AG
Am Belvedere 1
1100 Vienna
Austria

Subject: **Case M.10348 – GLOBAL PAYMENTS / ERSTE GROUP / PAYONE BUSINESSES**
Commission decision pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004[1] and Article 57 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area[2]

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. On 28 June 2021, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which Global Payments Inc. ('Global Payments', USA) and Erste Group Bank AG ('Erste Group', Austria) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation joint control of the Austrian point-of-sale ('POS') merchant acquiring and POS terminal provision and management businesses (the 'PAYONE Austrian Divestment Business') of Ingenico Group S.A. ('Ingenico', France), belonging to Worldline S.A. ('Worldline', France) by way of purchase of assets.[3]

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

   – for Global Payments: a financial services company that provides various payments solutions to merchants, issuers, businesses and consumers worldwide,

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1 OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation'). With effect from 1 December 2009, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU') has introduced certain changes, such as the replacement of 'Community' by 'Union' and 'common market' by 'internal market'. The terminology of the TFEU will be used throughout this decision.

2 OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p. 3 (the 'EEA Agreement').

3 Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No C 269, 7.7.2021, p. 5.

– for Erste Group: an Austrian financial services group which offers banking and financial services in Central and Eastern Europe,

– for the PAYONE Austrian Divestment Business: providing POS merchant acquiring services and POS terminal provision and management services in Austria.

3. After examination of the notification, the European Commission has concluded that the notified operation falls within the scope of the Merger Regulation and of paragraph 5(c) of the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004.[4]

4. For the reasons set out in the Notice on a simplified procedure, the European Commission has decided not to oppose the notified operation and to declare it compatible with the internal market and with the EEA Agreement. This decision is adopted in application of Article 6(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation and Article 57 of the EEA Agreement.

For the Commission

(Signed)
Olivier GUERSENT
Director-General

4 OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.