V

(Announcements)

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9005 — Booking Holdings/HotelsCombined)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2018/C 344/03)

1. On 18 September 2018, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 and following a referral pursuant to Article 4(5) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 [1].

This notification concerns the following undertakings:

— Booking Holdings Inc. ('Booking Holdings', US)

— HotelsCombined Pty Ltd ('HotelsCombined', Australia)

Booking Holdings acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of the whole of HotelsCombined.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for Booking Holdings: supply of online travel and related services. Its core brands include Booking.com, priceline.com, agoda.com, KAYAK, Rentalcars.com and OpenTable. It is headquartered in the United States and offers its services in more than 220 countries and territories in Europe, North America, South America, the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East and Africa.

— for HotelsCombined: active in the online travel sector and provides metasearch services solely in respect of hotels and other accomodations. It is headquartered in Australia and offers services in over 50 countries.

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.9005 — Booking Holdings/HotelsCombined

[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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