EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 22.02.2021
C(2021) 1343 final

PUBLIC VERSION

The Blackstone Group Inc.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154
United States of America

B&J Holdings Limited
93, Mill Street
Zone 5, Central Business Dictrict
Qormi CBD 5090
Malta

Subject: **Case M.10132 — Blackstone/B&J/Applegreen**
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 29 January 2021, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which The Blackstone Group Inc. ("Blackstone", United States) and B&J Holdings Limited ("B&J", Malta) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control of Applegreen plc ("Applegreen", Ireland) by way of purchase of shares.[3]

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

   – for Blackstone: a global asset management company,

   – for B&J: a holding company, owned by Joseph Barrett and Robert Etchingham and currently Applegreen's largest shareholder,

---

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 40, 5.2.2021, p. 20.

Commission européenne, DG COMP MERGER REGISTRY, 1049 Bruxelles, BELGIQUE
Europese Commissie, DG COMP MERGER REGISTRY, 1049 Brussel, BELGIË

Tel: +32 229-91111. Fax: +32 229-64301. E-mail: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu.

– for Applegreen: a roadside convenience retailer, operating from motorway service areas, trunk road service areas and petrol filling stations, with presence in Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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(b) 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.