EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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PUBLIC VERSION

British Broadcasting Corporation
201 Wood Lane, White City
W12 7TS - London
United Kingdom

Channel Four Television Corporation
124 Horseferry Road
SW1P 2TX - London
United Kingdom

ITV Network Limited
2 Waterhouse Square, 140 Holborn
EC1N 2AE - London
United Kingdom

Subject: **Case M.10187 -BBC / ITV / CHANNEL 4 / FREESAT**
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 8 April 2021, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which The British Broadcasting Corporation (United Kingdom), ITV Network Limited (United Kingdom) and Channel 4 Television Corporation (United Kingdom) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and Article 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control over the whole of Freesat Limited (United Kingdom) by way of purchase of shares.[3]

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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 C143, 23.04.2021, p12.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for BBC: public sector broadcaster providing a wide range of TV and radio channels as well as iPlayer and other on-demand services which are accessible to licence fee payers throughout the UK through a variety of platforms and devices,

- for ITV: integrated producer broadcaster, creates, owns and distributes high-quality content on multiple platforms globally. It broadcasts a large portfolio of commercial channels including the main ITV channel,

- for Channel 4: publicly-owned and commercially-funded UK public service broadcaster which operates a portfolio of channels accessible on a free to view basis via a variety of platforms and devices,

- for Freesat: joint venture between the BBC and ITV which provides a satellite broadcasting platform to c. 1.1 million homes (free to view linear TV and on demand content over satellite, as well as paid for on demand content). It also provides technical and consultancy support to a small number of international customers to whom it licences certain technology and knowhow associated with free to view TV services.

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.