C/2026/4357

11.8.2026

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.12543 – INEOS / SINOPEC / JV)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(C/2026/4357)

1. On 31 July 2026, 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:

— China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation ('Sinopec', China),

— INEOS AG ('INEOS', Switzerland).

Sinopec and INEOS will acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control of the Joint Venture.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares in a newly created company constituting a joint venture.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are the following:

— Sinopec is a petroleum and petrochemical group headquartered in Beijing,

— INEOS is a privately owned conglomerate that produces a range of chemicals including petrochemicals, specialty chemicals and oil products.

3. The Joint Venture will own and operate a high-density polyethylene plant in Tianjin, the People's Republic of China, and commercialise and sell various high-density polyethylene products manufactured at the plant in the People's Republic of China.

4. 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 treatment for certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings ([2]), it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the Notice.

5. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed concentration 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.12543 – INEOS / SINOPEC / JV

([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').
([2]) OJ C 160, 5.5.2023, p. 1.

Observations can be sent to the Commission by email or by post. Please use the contact details below:

Email: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu

Postal address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË