EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.8.2019
C(2019) 6331 final

PUBLIC VERSION

To the notifying party

Subject: **Case M.9457 – NEXT ALT / SOTHEBY'S**
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 26 July 2019, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which Next Alt SARL ("Next Alt", Luxembourg), controlled by Mr Drahi, acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of the whole of Sotheby's (United States) by way of purchase of shares.[3]

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

   – for Next Alt: personal holding of Mr Drahi, controlling the Altice group which is active in the provision of a range of telecoms, content, media, entertainment and advertising services worldwide,

   – for Sotheby's: broker of fine and decorative art, jewellery and collectibles active worldwide.

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]

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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 C259, 02.08.2019, p. 29.

4 OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

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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)
Johannes LAITENBERGER
Director-General