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Subject: **Case M.10244 – VODAFONE GROUP / SAFARICOM / SUMITOMO / ETHIOPIA JV**
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 23 August 2021, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which Vodafone Group Limited ("Vodafone Group", United Kingdom), Safaricom Plc ("Safaricom", Kenya) and Sumitomo Corporation ("Sumitomo", Japan) intend to acquire, within the meaning of Articles 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation, joint control over the Global Partnership for Ethiopia B.V. (together with its subsidiaries, the "Ethiopia JV",

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').

Ethiopia). The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares in a newly created company constituting a joint venture.[3]

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

   – for Vodafone Group: a telecommunications group active in Europe and Africa. The Vodafone group operates mobile and fixed networks in 21 countries and partners with mobile networks in an additional 48 countries,

   – for Safaricom: a telecommunications operator in Kenya,

   – for Sumitomo: a global trading and investment company, conducting business activities across a wide range of industries in 66 countries and regions,

   – for Ethiopia JV: a newly established joint venture for the purpose of operating a full telecommunications licence to provide telecommunication services in Ethiopia.

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(a) 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

3 Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No C 348, 30.8.2021, p. 3.

4 OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.