Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9763 – Bidvest Group/PHS Group)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2020/C 116/09)

1. On 31 March 2020, 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:

— The Bidvest Group Limited ('Bidvest', South Africa,

— PHS Bidco Limited (together with its subsidiaries the 'PHS Group', United Kingdom).

Bidvest acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of the PHS Group.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for Bidvest: provision of facilities management services in the United Kingdom and Ireland,

— for the PHS Group: provision of a range of hygiene and other specialist business services, including washroom solutions, garment supply and laundering services and equipment and plant rental services in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Spain.

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

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation 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.9763 – Bidvest Group/PHS Group

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

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

Fax +32 22964301

Postal address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
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([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').
([2]) OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.