Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.10459 — CVC/STOCK SPIRITS GROUP)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2021/C 421/06)

1. On 7 October 2021, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ([1]) involving the acquisition of sole control of Stock Spirits Group plc ('Stock Spirits') by CVC Capital Partners SICAV-FIS S.A. ('CVC') within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004.

This notification concerns the following undertakings:

— CVC (Luxembourg);

— Stock Spirits (United-Kingdom).

CVC acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of Stock Spirits. The concentration is accomplished by way of public bid via an announcement made on 12 August 2021.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for CVC: CVC manages investment funds and platforms. One of CVC funds' portfolio companies, Zabka Polska S.A., is active in grocery retail in Poland;

— for Stock Spirits: Stock Spirits is a producer and distributor of spirit drinks, mainly in Europe.

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.

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.10459 — CVC/STOCK SPIRITS 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').