C/2024/2220

18.3.2024

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.11323 – SKG / WESTROCK)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(C/2024/2220)

1. On 11 March 2024, 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:

— Smurfit Kappa Group plc ('SKG'), a publicly listed company incorporated in Ireland.

— WestRock Company ('WestRock'), a publicly listed company incorporated in the United States.

SKG will enter into a full merger within the meaning of Article 3(1)(a) of the Merger Regulation with WestRock.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

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

— SKG is a multinational paper and packaging company. It is active in the manufacturing and sale of (i) corrugated case materials, sheets, and cases, (ii) solid board sheets and cases, (iii) paperboard and folding cartons, (iv) specialty packaging products, (v) packaging machinery, and (vi) paper derivatives such as recycled wastepaper and pulp.

— WestRock is a multinational supplier of paper and packaging solutions. It is active in the manufacture and supply of paperboard, folding cartons, containerboard, and corrugated packaging products.

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 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.

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:

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([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:

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