PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9603 – SNCF MOBILITES / THIF)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2022/C 93/08)

1. On 21 February 2022, 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:

— SNCF SA ('SNCF', France),

— THI Factory ('THIF', Belgium).

SNCF will acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of the whole THIF.

The concentration is accomplished by way of contract or any other means.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned:

— SNCF is the incumbent French railway undertaking. Its activities include rail passenger and freight transport, station and infrastructure management and engineering activities. SNCF exercises sole control over Eurostar International Limited, the operator of international high-speed rail services connecting the United Kingdom with France, Belgium and the Netherlands through the Channel Tunnel between the United Kingdom and France,

— THIF is a railway undertaking active in the management and operation of international high-speed rail passenger transport services between France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany under the name Thalys.

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.9603 – SNCF MOBILITES / THIF

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

([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').

Postal address:

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