PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9451 — Mall Group/Československá obchodní banka/MallPay)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2019/C 344/05)

1. On 1 October 2019, 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:

— Mall Group a.s. ('Mall Group', Czechia), jointly controlled by (i) Rockaway e-commerce a.s. and its group ('Rockaway' Czechia), (ii) EC Investments a.s. and its group ('ECI', Czechia), and (iii) BONAK a.s. and its group (as part of PPF Group N.V. and its group, 'PPF', Czechia),

— Československá obchodní banka, a. s. ('CSOB', Czechia), controlled by KBC Bank ('KBC', Belgium),

— MallPay s.r.o. ('MallPay', Czechia).

Mall Group and CSOB acquire within the meaning of Articles 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control of the whole of MallPay. MallPay is currently solely controlled by Mall Group.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— Mall Group: provision of e-commerce services in Central and Eastern Europe through a number of e-shops,

— CSOB: provision of banking and financial services,

— MallPay: provision of online payment solutions.

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.9451 — Mall Group/Československá obchodní banka/MallPay

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

([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').
([2]) OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.

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