C/2024/7276

4.12.2024

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.11625 – EPCG / IDS)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(C/2024/7276)

1. On 26 November 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:

— EP Group, a.s. ('EPCG', Czech Republic), controlled by Mr. Daniel Křetínsky, a national of the Czech Republic,

— International Distribution Services Plc ('IDS', United Kingdom).

EPCG will acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of IDS.

The concentration is accomplished by way of public bid announced on 29 May 2024.

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

— EPCG is an investment holding company controlled by Mr. Křetínský. Mr. Křetínský holds interests in companies active across Europe in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, food, logistics, media, and e-commerce,

— IDS is the holding company of the Royal Mail Group providing postal and delivery services in the United Kingdom and of General Logistics Systems B.V., an international provider of small package delivery services.

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:

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

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

Postal address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

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