PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9457 — Next Alt/Sotheby's)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2019/C 259/07)

1. On 26 July 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:

— Next Alt SARL ('Next Alt', Luxembourg), controlled by Mr Drahi,

— Sotheby's (United States).

Next Alt acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of the whole of Sotheby's.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for Next Alt SARL: personal holding of Mr Drahi, controlling the Altice group which is active in the provision of a range of telecoms, content, media, entertainment and advertising services worldwide,

— for Sotheby's: broker of fine and decorative art, jewellery and collectibles active worldwide.

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.9457 — Next Alt/Sotheby's

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:

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Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
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([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').
([2]) OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.