EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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PUBLIC VERSION

To the notifying parties

Subject: **Case M.9791 – SIGNA RETAIL / CENTRAL GROUP / GLOBUS**
Commission decision pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004[1] and Article 57 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area[2]

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. On 16 March 2020, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which the undertakings SIGNA Retail Selection AG and SIGNA Prime Selection AG ("Signa Group", Switzerland, Austria), belonging to the group SIGNA Holding GmbH, ultimately controlled by Familie Benko Privatstiftung, on the one hand, and Harng Central Department Store Ltd. ("Central Group", Thailand), ultimately controlled by the Chirathivat family, on the other hand, acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control over the whole of Magazine zum Globus *AG* ("*Globus*", Switzerland). The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares and assets.[3]

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

   – for Signa Group: retailing, including through various department stores in Germany ("GALERIA Karstadt Kaufhof") and Belgium and furniture stores in Austria, as well as real estate primarily in Austria and Germany.

   – for Central Group: merchandising, real estate, retailing, hospitality and restaurants primarily in Southeast Asia and retailing in Italy, Denmark and Germany through the premium department stores of The KaDeWe Group.

   – for Globus: operating department and other (fashion) stores across Switzerland.

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1 OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation'). With effect from 1 December 2009, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU') has introduced certain changes, such as the replacement of 'Community' by 'Union' and 'common market' by 'internal market'. The terminology of the TFEU will be used throughout this decision.

2 OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p. 3 (the 'EEA Agreement').

3 Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No C 100, 27.3.2020, p. 15.

Commission européenne, DG COMP MERGER REGISTRY, 1049 Bruxelles, BELGIQUE
Europese Commissie, DG COMP MERGER REGISTRY, 1049 Brussel, BELGIË

Tel: +32 229-91111. Fax: +32 229-64301. E-mail: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu.

3. After examination of the notification, the European Commission has concluded that the notified operation falls within the scope of the Merger Regulation and of paragraph 5(a) of the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004.[4]

4. For the reasons set out in the Notice on a simplified procedure, the European Commission has decided not to oppose the notified operation and to declare it compatible with the internal market and with the EEA Agreement. This decision is adopted in application of Article 6(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation and Article 57 of the EEA Agreement.

For the Commission

(Signed)
Olivier GUERSENT
Director-General

4 OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.