V

(Announcements)

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.9379 — Umicore/Cattierite Holdings Coöperatief)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2019/C 364/09)

1. On 18 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:

— Umicore, S.A./N.V. (Belgium, 'Umicore'),

— Cattierite Holdings Coöperatief U.A. (The Netherlands, 'Cattierite'), controlled by Koboltti Chemicals Holdings Limited (Bermuda, 'KCHL'). Cattierite is a holding company, which owns and controls another holding company, Carollite Holdings B.V. (The Netherlands), and Freeport Cobalt Oy (Finland, 'FCO').

Umicore acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of the whole of Cattierite, including FCO's cobalt refinery and downstream production of battery grade cobalt materials and precursors. KCHL will retain FCO's non-battery business and some sales for battery applications made by the non-battery business. The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for Umicore: supplying cathode materials for lithium-ion rechargeable batteries used in portable electronics and electrified vehicles, as well as supplying metal bonding powders, super alloys and cobalt chemicals for a range of non-battery applications. Umicore is a global materials technology and recycling group. Its activities are organised in three business groups: Catalysis, Energy & Surface Technologies and Recycling,

— for Cattierite: producing battery grade cobalt materials and precursors through the refining of purchased input cobalt materials. Cattierite is a holding company active in this business through its subsidiary FCO.

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:

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

M.9379 — Umicore/Cattierite Holdings Coöperatief

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:

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