Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.10278 – EQT/Cerba)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2021/C 201/12)

1. On 19 May 2021, 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:

— EQT Fund Management S.à r.l. ('EQT', Luxembourg),

— Cerba Group ('Cerba', France).

EQT acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of Cerba.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for EQT: investment fund manager for the investment fund EQT IX, which seeks to make investments primarily in Europe. The EQT funds' portfolio companies are active in a variety of industries and sectors, including in the pharmaceutical sector, in elderly care and veterinary services,

— for Cerba: global and diversified laboratory services company operating within clinical pathology in France and internationally. It is currently active in 40 countries across five continents. Cerba is active in three main business lines: (i) specialty testing; (ii) routine testing and; and (iii) clinical trial. It also offers veterinary biology and well-being 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.

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.10278 – EQT/Cerba

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
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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.