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PUBLIC VERSION

Harng Central Department Store Limited
14th floor, Central Chidlom Tower,
22 Soi Somkid Ploenchit Road
10330 Lumpini, Pathumwan Bangkok
Thailand

SIGNA Holding GmbH
Maria-Theresien Straße 31
6020 Innsbruck
Austria

SIGNA Retail Selection AG
Bärengasse 29
8001 Zürich
Switzerland

Subject: **Case M.10642 – CENTRAL / SIGNA / SELFRIDGES**
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 21 March 2022, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which Harng Central Department Store Limited ('Central', Thailand), on one hand, and SIGNA Holding GmbH (Austria) and SIGNA Retail Selection AG (Switzerland), together 'SIGNA', on the other hand, will acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation joint control over SFP Holdings Limited, Selfridges Manchester Limited and SHEL Holdings Europe Limited (together 'Selfridges', UK), controlled by

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').

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Selfridges Group Limited (Canada). The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.[3]

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

– Central: is active worldwide in real estate, retailing, hospitality and restaurants primarily in Southeast Asia. In the EU, Central is active in the retail sector in Italy with the banner 'la Rinascente', in Germany with the banner 'The KaDeWe Group' and in Denmark with the banner 'Illum'. It also conducts property development activities in Germany, Denmark and Italy,

– SIGNA: is primarily active in two business areas: retail trade and real estate. In retail trade, it operates a chain of mainly non-food products stores in Germany ('GALERIA') and in Belgium ('INNO'). It also owns specialised brick and mortar shops of sporting goods, as well as a number of online shops with the banners 'SportScheck' and 'SIGNA Sports United Group'. Further, it operates furniture stores in Austria, as well as two online furniture shops ('kika' and 'Leiner'). In real estate, SIGNA focuses on purchase, rent, lease and management of land and buildings as well as project development. It owns real estate properties primarily in Austria, Germany, Northern Italy and Switzerland. It also operates luxury hotels in Austria and Italy,

– Selfridges: is primarily active in the retail of mainly non-food products including beauty products, womenswear, menswear, childrenswear, footwear, accessories and homewares. Selfridges's retail business comprises three separate operating banners: 'Selfridges', 'De Bijenkorf' and 'Brown Thomas and Arnotts' with stores located in the UK, Ireland and The Netherlands, associated digital platforms, and real estate holdings in the UK and Ireland.

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(c) 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

3 Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No C 139, 29.3.2022, p. 8.

4 OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.