Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.7000 — Liberty Global/Ziggo)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2018/C 125/04)

1. On 14 March 2014, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ([1]). The notification concerned the following undertakings:

— Liberty Global plc (United Kingdom),

— Ziggo NV (the Netherlands)

Liberty Global acquired within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of Ziggo.

The concentration was accomplished by way of public bid announced on 14 March 2014.

2. On 10 October 2014, the Commission declared the concentration compatible with the common market subject to certain conditions. On 26 October 2017, the General Court annulled the Commission's conditional clearance decision. A supplement to the original notification has been submitted to the Commission on 4 April 2018.

3. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— Liberty Global owns and operates cable networks and some mobile networks worldwide and offers television, broadband internet, mobile and telephony services as well as mobile services. In the Netherlands, Liberty Global is active via its participation in VodafoneZiggo,

— Ziggo owned and operated a cable network that spans more than half of the Netherlands, including the third and fourth biggest cities, Den Haag and Utrecht. In 2013, Ziggo provided digital and analogue cable video, broadband internet, mobile telephony and digital telephony (VoIP) services to 2,8 million customers. Ziggo is now part of the VodafoneZiggo business.

4. 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.

5. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the 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.7000 — Liberty Global/Ziggo

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').