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Stuart Banks
Partner and General Counsel, Europe
Hellman & Friedman LLP
The Brunel Building
2 Canalside Walk
London W2 1DG
The United Kingdom

Subject: **Case M.10462 – H&F / ZOOPLUS**
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 6 September 2021, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which the undertaking Hellman & Friedman LLC ('H&F', US) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of the undertaking zooplus AG ('zooplus', Germany) by way of purchase of shares.[3]

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

   – for H&F: private equity investments in a variety of sectors worldwide, including software, internet & media, financial services, business & information services, energy & industrials, retail & consumer, and healthcare;

   – for zooplus: online retail sale of pet supplies through localised and cross-national web shops across 30 EEA countries. The range of products sold by zooplus includes around 8,000 food and accessory items in the dog, cat, small animal, bird, aquarium, and horse categories.

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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 367, 13.9.2021, p. 9.

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(b) 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.