EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 5.9.2024
C(2024) 6435 final

PUBLIC VERSION

Baoshan Iron & Steel Co., Ltd.
885 Fujin Road, Baoshan District
Shanghai
China

Baowu Aluminum Technology Co., Ltd.
Yuwang Road
Sanmenxia Industrial Park
Sanmenxia City, Henan Province
China

Kobelco (China) Holding Co., Ltd.
Unit 02, 05-1, 06-1
12th Floor, No. 660-686
Jiujiang Road, Huangpu District
Shanghai
China

Subject: **Case M.11686 – BAOSTEEL / BAOWU ALUMINIUM / KOBELCO / KOBELCO BAO AUTOMOTIVE ALUMINIUM ROLLED PRODUCTS JV**
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 9 August 2024, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which (i) Baoshan Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. ('Baosteel', China), controlled by China Baowu Steel Group Co., Ltd. ('Baowu Parent', China), (ii) Baowu Aluminum Technology Co., Ltd. ('Baowu Aluminum', China), controlled by Baowu Parent, and (iii) Kobelco (China) Holding Co., Ltd. ('Kobelco', China), controlled by Kobe Steel, Ltd. (Japan), acquire, within the meaning of Article 3(1), point (b) and Article 3(4) of the Merger

([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').

Regulation, joint control of the newly created joint venture tentatively named Kobelco Baosteel Automotive Aluminium Rolled Products Co., Ltd. (the 'JV', China) by way of purchase of shares. ([3])

(2) The business activities of the undertakings concerned are the following:

– for Baosteel: steel manufacturing, processing and distribution, information technology, carbon industry and finance,

– for Baowu Aluminum: production, sales, research, and development of high-performance high-alloyed aluminium sheet and foil products and other aluminium and aluminium alloy deep processing products,

– for Kobelco: mainly engages in investments in China, provides services to Kobe Group's local entities in China, and carries out purchasing, sales, import, and export operations. Kobelco supports Kobe Group affiliates' import and export of steel and machinery products in relation to the Chinese market.

(3) The JV will be active in China in the manufacture and sale of automotive aluminium flat-rolled sheet, which is a high-precision aluminium product used for the manufacture of sheet parts (including outer, inner, and reinforcing sheets) for automotive car bodies.

(4) 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(a) of the Commission Notice on a simplified treatment for certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004. ([4])

(5) For the reasons set out in the Notice on a simplified treatment, 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]) OJ C, C/2024/5179, 21.8.2024.
([4]) OJ C 160, 5.5.2023, p. 1 (the 'Notice on a simplified treatment').