C/2026/6052

18.11.2026

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case M.12686 – WITTINGTON / FAIRFAX / BLAZING STAR BOOTS SUPERCO)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(C/2026/6052)

1. On 6 November 2026, 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:

— Wittington Investments, Limited (Canada),

— Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited (Canada),

— Blazing Star Boots Superco (Jersey) Limited (Jersey), ultimately controlled by Sycamore Partners Management, L.P.

Wittington Investments, Limited and Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited will acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation joint control of the whole of Blazing Star Boots Superco (Jersey) Limited.

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.

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

— Wittington Investments, Limited is the private holding company for the Weston family based in Canada. Wittington invests globally through a diversified portfolio of direct and fund investments,

— Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited is a financial holding company. Through its portfolio companies, Fairfax focuses mainly on property and casualty insurance, reinsurance and the associated investment management,

— Blazing Star Boots Superco (Jersey) Limited is a health and beauty retail business.

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 treatment for certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings ([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 concentration 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.12686 – WITTINGTON / FAIRFAX / BLAZING STAR BOOTS SUPERCO

([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation').
([2]) OJ C 160, 5.5.2023, p. 1.

Observations can be sent to the Commission by email or by post. Please use the contact details below:

Email: COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu

Postal address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË