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PUBLIC VERSION

AUNDE Group SE
Waldnieler Str. 151
41068 Mönchengladbach
Germany

Toyota Boshoku Corporation
1-1 Toyoda-cho, Kariya-shi
Aichi
Japan

Subject: **Case M.11599 – AUNDE GROUP / TB / TBKA**
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 3 July 2024, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which AUNDE Achter & Ebels GmbH ('Aunde', Germany), controlled by the Aunde Group SE (Germany) and Toyota Boshoku Corporation ('TB', Japan) will acquire within the meaning of Articles 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control of TB Kawashima Co., Ltd. ('TBKA', Japan), currently controlled by TB. The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares and a joint venture agreement. ([3])

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

– Aunde produces under the brands Aunde, Isringhausen and Fehrer among other yarns, technical textiles and seat covers for automotive OEMs in Europe and worldwide,

– TB is an automotive component manufacturer, which focuses on passenger car seats, seats for trains and aircrafts as well as other interior and exterior vehicle components.

([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]) OJ C, C/2024/4429, 10.7.2024.

(3) TBKA focuses on the development, production and supply of various types of automotive textiles and interior fabrics particularly in Asia and the Americas.

(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 paragraphs 5(a) and 5 (d) 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

([4]) OJ C 160, 5.5.2023, p. 1 (the 'Notice on a simplified treatment').