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COMP/M.4233 - BP FRANCE / VITOGAZ / ENERGAZ JV

SECTION 1.2

Description of the concentration

On 7 June 2006, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 by which the undertakings BP France and Vitogaz plan to create a full-function joint venture operating in the LPG sector in France.

The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

BP France is a distributor of petroleum products in France with approximately 500 gas stations under its brand. Its activities cover all sectors - fuels, motor fuels, lubricants, bitumen, as well as marine and air transport products. BP France is also one of the main players in France in the field of solar energy. BP France is a subsidiary of BP plc, the holding company of a multi-national energy group.

Vitogaz is an independent distributor of butane, propane and autogas in France. Vitogaz is a subsidiary of the RUBIS group, an independent European actor involved in the storage of liquid products (petroleum, fertilizer, chemicals) and the distribution of LPG.