

*Disclaimer :*

*The Competition DG makes the information provided by the notifying parties in section 1.2 of Form CO available to the public in order to increase transparency. This information has been prepared by the notifying parties under their sole responsibility, and its content in no way prejudices the view the Commission may take of the planned operation. Nor can the Commission be held responsible for any incorrect or misleading information contained therein.*

## **COMP/M. 4806 - DSB/FIRST/ÖRESUNDSTÅG**

### **SECTION 1.2**

#### **Description of the concentration**

On 20 August 2007, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the EC Merger Regulation, by which DSB ("DSB") and FirstGroup plc ("FIRST") through its subsidiary First Rail Holdings Limited establish a Joint Venture for the operation of two public passenger rail service franchises in the Øresund Region from January 2009 to 31 December 2015. The franchises were awarded to the Joint Venture on the basis of competitive tenders. The Joint Venture will perform all the functions of an autonomous economic entity on a lasting basis.

DSB is an independent public corporation incorporated under the laws of Denmark.

DSB is primarily engaged in regional and interregional railway transport in Denmark and Sweden.

FIRST is a UK based transport company with its main activities in the UK where it operates a number of rail passenger franchises.

The concentration will impact the markets for the supply of public passenger services by rail in the areas/routes covered by the two franchises. There are no significant horizontal or vertical overlaps between DSB and FIRST. The limited horizontal and vertical links between DSB and the Joint Venture are incidental and in any event too insignificant to affect competition in the markets. The concentration could also be considered to have an impact on a potential Community-wide bidding market for railway franchises. DSB and FIRST could be considered competitors in this market. Their combined share of a potential Community-wide bidding market is, however, limited.