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COMP/M.4883 - PETROFINA/ GALACTIC/ JV

SECTION 1.2

Description of the concentration

On 9 November 2007, the Commission received the notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (the Merger Regulation), by which PetroFina (Belgium) and Galactic (Belgium) will establish a full-function joint venture within the meaning of Article 3(4) of the Merger Regulation. The joint venture will be active in the development of, and as the case may be the exploitation of, a technology for the manufacture and sale of lactide and polylactic acid ("PLA").

The business activities of the undertakings concerned are as follows:

PetroFina: base chemistry and commodity polymers resulting therefrom (polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene).

Galactic: lactic acid and its salts and esters (lactates).