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**COMP/M.5996 – THOMAS COOK / TRAVEL BUSINESS OF CO-OPERATIVE GROUP
/ TRAVEL BUSINESS OF MIDLANDS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY**

SECTION 1.2

Description of the concentration

The transaction involves a merger of the travel agency and retail call centre businesses of Thomas Cook plc ('Thomas Cook'), Co-operative Group Limited ("CGL") and Midlands Co-operative Society Limited ("Midlands") into a joint venture to be owned 66.5% by Thomas Cook, 30% by CGL and 3.5% Midlands.

Thomas Cook is a large vertically integrated leisure travel company operating across Europe, North America, India and Egypt. CGL and Midlands own smaller leisure travel companies focused on the retail and online distribution of holiday products in the UK.

The transaction impacts on the leisure travel sector in the UK.

The concentration is subject to receipt of merger clearance from the European Commission.