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M. 9671 - APOLLO / BLUE GROUP

SECTION 1.2

Description of the concentration

This notification relates to the proposed acquisition of sole control by means of a purchase of shares within the meaning of Article 3 of the Merger Regulation by investment funds managed by affiliates of Apollo Capital Management, L.P. (“**Apollo**”) over Blue Group Hold Co Limited (“**Blue Group**”).

Apollo is headquartered in the United States of America. Investment funds managed by affiliates of Apollo invest in companies and debt issued by companies involved in various businesses throughout the world. Examples of current investments include, *inter alia*, companies in the chemical, hospital, security, insurance, financial services, and real estate businesses.

Blue Group is based in the United Kingdom and is the holding company of Harveys Furniture and Bensons for Beds businesses, two British home retail chains specialising in living room, dining room and bedroom furniture, with over 250 stores throughout the United Kingdom. Harveys Furniture is a British home retail chain based in Accrington (Lancashire), specialising in living room and dining room furniture. Bensons for Beds is a British sleep solution destination, based in Accrington (Lancashire), offering both classic and contemporary bedroom furniture. It sells a comprehensive assortment of bed brands, and operates as a chain of concessions and standalone stores in the United Kingdom.

The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for Apollo: portfolio investments;
- for Blue Group: home furniture.