

***Case No COMP/M.3353 -
BANQUE POPULAIRE /
DZ BANK / VR
FACTOREM***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

**REGULATION (EEC) No 4064/89
MERGER PROCEDURE**

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 06/02/2004

*Also available in the CELEX database
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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 06.02.2004

SG-Greffe(2004) D/200508

MERGER PROCEDURE
ARTICLE 6(1)(b) DECISION

SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE

PUBLIC VERSION

To the notifying parties

Dear Madam and Sirs,

**Subject: Case No. COMP/M.3353 - Banque Populaire/ DZ Bank/ VR Factorem
Notification of 06.01.2004 pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC)
No. 4064/89¹, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97²
Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No. C 12, 16.01.2004,
page 5**

1. On 6 January 2004, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97, by which the undertakings Natexis Factorem SA (“Natexis Factorem”) controlled by the French Banque Populaire Group (“Banque Populaire”) and VR Leasing AG (“VR Leasing”) controlled by the German DZ Bank AG (“DZ Bank”) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the German undertaking VR Factorem GmbH (“VR Factorem”) by way of purchase of shares.

¹ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989 p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

² OJ L 180, 9. 7. 1997, p. 1; corrigendum OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
- for undertaking Natexis Factorem: factoring
 - for undertaking Banque Populaire: financial services
 - for undertaking VR Leasing: leasing and complementary services
 - for undertaking DZ Bank: financial services
- for undertaking VR Factorem: factoring.
3. After examination of the notification, the Commission has concluded that the notified operation falls within the scope of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 4064/89 and of paragraph 4, subparagraph a of the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89³.
4. For the reasons set out in the Notice on a simplified procedure, the Commission has decided not to oppose the notified operation and to declare it compatible with the common market and with the EEA Agreement. This decision is adopted in application of Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 4064/89.

For the Commission
Mario MONTI, signed
Member of the Commission

³ OJ C 217, 29.07.2000, p. 32.