

***Case No COMP/M.3660 -  
SOCIETE GENERALE /  
OTTO / HANSEATIC  
BANK / JV***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

**REGULATION (EC) No 139/2004  
MERGER PROCEDURE**

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Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION  
Date: 23/12/2004

***In electronic form on the EUR-Lex website under document  
number 32004M3660***



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 23.12.2004

SG-Greffe(2004) D/ D/206389+90

PUBLIC VERSION

MERGER PROCEDURE  
ARTICLE 6(1)(b) DECISION

SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE

**To the Notifying Parties**

Dear Madam and/or Sir,

**Subject: Case No. COMP/M.3660 - Société Générale/Otto/Hanseatic Bank/JV  
Notification of 26.11.2004 pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No.  
139/2004<sup>1</sup>  
Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No. C 299, December  
4, 2004.**

1. On 26.11.2004 the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 by which the undertakings Société Générale SA (“SG”, France) and Otto GmbH & Co. KG (“Otto”, Germany) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of Hanseatic Bank GmbH & Co. KG (“Hanseatic Bank”, Germany), by way of purchase of shares.
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
  - for SG :banking and financial services,
  - for Otto : retailing by mail order, and

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 24, 29.1.2004 p. 1

- for Hanseatic Bank : banking.
3. After examination of the notification, the Commission has concluded that the notified operation falls within the scope of Council Regulation (EC) No. 139/2004 and of paragraph 5, subparagraph c, of the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No139/2004<sup>2</sup>.
  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 (EC) No. 139/2004.

For the Commission  
signed  
Neelie KROES  
Member of the Commission

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<sup>2</sup> Available on DG COMP website:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/mergers/legislation/consultation/simplified\\_tru.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/mergers/legislation/consultation/simplified_tru.pdf).