

***Case No COMP/M.4460 -
ABN AMRO / CARLSON
/ T.G.I. FRIDAY'S***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 21/02/2007

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 21/02/2007

SG-Greffe(2007) D/200827

PUBLIC VERSION

MERGER PROCEDURE
ARTICLE 6(1)(b) DECISION

SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE

To the notifying parties

Dear Madam(s) and/or Sir(s),

**Subject: Case No. COMP/M.4460 – ABN AMRO / Carlson / T.G.I. Friday's
Notification of 18 January 2007 pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation
(EC) No. 139/2004¹
Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No. C 18, 26.01.07, p.
14.**

1. On 18 January 2007, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 by which the undertakings ABN AMRO Capital BO Funds B.V. ("AACBOF", the Netherlands) belonging to the ABN AMRO group and Carlson Restaurants Worldwide Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Carlson Companies Inc. ("Carlson" USA) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the UK T.G.I. Friday's franchised restaurant business of Whitbread Group Plc. ("Whitbread", UK) by way of purchase of shares in a newly created company constituting a joint venture.
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are :

¹ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004 p. 1

- for undertaking ABN AMRO : provider of banking and financial services ;
 - for undertaking Carlson : active in the marketing, travel and hospitality sector ;
 - for T.G.I. Friday's restaurant : informal restaurants.
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) No. 139/2004².
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
Lowri EVANS
Deputy Director-General
for Philip LOWE
Director General

² OJ C 56, 05.3.2005 p.32