

***Case No COMP/M.4467 -
BLACKSTONE / PAI /
UNITED BISCUITS***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 12/12/2006

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 12-XII-2006

SG-Greffe(2006) D/207645

MERGER PROCEDURE
ARTICLE 6(1)(b) DECISION

SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE

PUBLIC VERSION

To the notifying parties

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

Subject: Case No. COMP/M.4467 – Blackstone / PAI / United Biscuits : Notification of 07/11/2006 pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 139/2004¹ Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No. C 277 – 15/11/2006 – page 24.

1. On 07.11.2006, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 by which the undertakings The Blackstone Group (“Blackstone”, USA) and PAI Partners (“PAI”, France), through an acquisition vehicle, acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation indirect joint control of the undertaking United Biscuits (“United Biscuits”, UK) by way of purchase of shares.
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are :
 - for Blackstone : private merchant banking firm
 - for PAI : private equity firm
 - for United Biscuits : production and sale of sweet and savoury biscuits, cakes and snacks.

¹ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004 p. 1

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 (b) 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
Philip LOWE
Director General

² OJ C 56, 05.3.2005 p.32