

EN

***Case No COMP/M.4472 -
WILLIAM HILL /
CODERE / JV***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 18/12/2006

***In electronic form on the EUR-Lex website under document
number 32006M4472***



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 18-XII-2006

SG-Greffe(2006) D/208133

MERGER PROCEDURE
ARTICLE 6(1)(b) DECISION

SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE

PUBLIC VERSION

To the notifying party

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

Subject: Case No. COMP/M.4472 – William Hill / Codere / JV
Notification of 17.11.2006 pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 139/2004¹
Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No. C288, 25.11.2006, p.17

1. On 17.11.2006, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 139/2004 by which the undertakings William Hill Organization Limited (“WHO”, UK) belonging to the William Hill group and Codere SA (“Codere”, Spain) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of a newly incorporated company constituting a joint venture by way of purchase of shares.

¹ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004 p. 1

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are :
- for undertaking WHO : operator of internet gambling sites and provider of fixed odds bookmaking services via licensed betting offices and telephone;
 - for undertaking Codere : manager of gaming machines, bingo halls and racetracks.
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
Philip LOWE
Director General

² OJ C 56, 05.3.2005 p.32