

***Case No COMP/M.4514 -
ADVENT / CARLYLE /
H.C. STARCK***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 24/01/2007

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 24/01/2007

SG-Greffe(2006) D/200269/200270

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.4514– Advent/Carlyle/H.C.Starck
Notification of 11/12/2006 pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No.
139/2004¹
Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No. C 311,
19/12/2006, p.54**

1. On 11/12/2006, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 139/2004 by which several funds managed by Advent International Corporation ("Advent", USA) and Carlyle Europe Partners II, L.P., part of the Carlyle Group ("Carlyle", USA) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the H.C. Starck group of companies ("H.C. Starck", Germany) by way of purchase of shares.
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - for Advent: private equity investment;
 - for Carlyle: private equity investment;

¹ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004 p. 1

- for H.C. Starck: active in refractory metals and related compounds, advanced ceramics, conductive polymers and other electronic chemicals for industrial applications, including electronics and optics, medical equipment, aviation and aerospace, hard and heavy metals, energy automotive and chemicals.
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