

***Case No COMP/M.4625 -  
APOLLO GROUP /  
COUNTRYWIDE***

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: 02/05/2007

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 02/05/2007

SG-Greffe(2007) D/202632

PUBLIC VERSION

MERGER PROCEDURE  
ARTICLE 6(1)(b) DECISION

SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE

**To the notifying party**

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

**Subject: Case COMP/M.4625- Apollo Group / Countrywide  
Notification of 26/03/2007 pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No.  
139/2004<sup>1</sup>  
Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No. C74, 31 March  
2007, page 31.**

1. On 26.03.2007, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 by which the undertaking Apollo Group ("Apollo", USA) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation control of the whole of Countrywide plc ("Countrywide", UK) by way of purchase of shares.
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are :
  - for Apollo : portfolio investment company
  - for Countrywide: provision of services in the residential property sector (estate agency, property management); financial services (insurance and mortgage mediation); surveying and valuation and conveyancing.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 (c) of the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No. 139/2004<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  
Philip LOWE  
Director General

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<sup>2</sup> OJ C 56, 05.3.2005 p.32