

***Case No COMP/M.5062 -
SOFINCO / SARACEN /
FORSO***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 23/06/2008

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 23.06.2008

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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.5062 - SOFINCO/ SARACEN/ FORSO
Notification of 22/05/2008 pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No.
139/2004¹
Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No. C 134 of
31/05/2008, page 11.**

On 22/05/2008, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 139/2004 by which the undertaking Sofinco S.A. ("Sofinco", France), a wholly owned subsidiary of Crédit Agricole S.A. ("CA", France), and Saracen HoldCo AB ("Saracen", Sweden), a wholly owned subsidiary of FCE Bank Plc controlled by Ford Motor Company, acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the undertaking Forso Nordic AB ("Forso", Sweden) by way of purchase of shares in a newly created company constituting a joint venture.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for Sofinco: consumer financing.
- for CA: banking, private banking, financial services, life and non-life insurances.

¹ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004 p. 1

- for Saracen: holding company of Ford Motor Company, which manufactures and distributes motor vehicles.
 - for Forso: financing and administrative services.
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(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