

***Case No COMP/M.5145 -
STAPLES /
CORPORATE EXPRESS***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 17/06/2008

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 17/06/2008

SG-Greffe(2008) D/203891
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PUBLIC VERSION
MERGER PROCEDURE ARTICLE 6(1)(b) DECISION
SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE

To the notifying party

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

**Subject: Case No. COMP/M.5145 - STAPLES/ CORPORATE EXPRESS
Notification of 13/05/2008 pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No.
139/2004¹
Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No. C124,
21.05.2008, page 21**

1. On 13 May, 2008, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 by which Staples Inc (Staples, USA) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation control of the whole of Corporate Express N.V. ("Corporate Express", The Netherlands) by way of a public bid announced on 19 February 2008.
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - for Staples: Distribution of office supplies to small and medium-sized businesses and individuals.
 - for Corporate Express: Distribution of office supplies to large businesses, distribution of printing equipment and related activities.

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 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