

***Case No COMP/M.5372 -
SOCIETE GENERALE /
LA CAIXA / JV***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 05/12/2008

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 05.12.2008
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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.5372 - SOCIETE GENERALE / LA CAIXA / JV
Notification of 31/10/2008 pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No
139/2004¹
Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No C 284,
08/11/2008, p. 3**

1. On 31/10/2008, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 by which the undertakings Société Générale (“Société Générale”, France), acting through its affiliate Boursorama SA (“Boursorama”, France) and Caixa d'Estalvis I Pensions de Barcelona "la Caixa" ("la Caixa"), acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of a joint venture (“the JV”, Spain), 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 Société Générale : major financial services group, operating in 82 countries;
 - for Boursorama : online retail banking and brokerage services in France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain.;
 - for la Caixa : a major retail and savings bank in Spain;
 - for the JV : provision of on-line banking services in Spain.

¹ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

2. 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(c) of the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004².
3. 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.