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***Case No COMP/M.6624 -
BEKAERT / SOUTHERN
STEEL BERHAD /
BEKAERT SOUTHERN
WIRE***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 23/07/2012

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 23/07/2012
C(2012) 5314

PUBLIC VERSION

SIMPLIFIED MERGER
PROCEDURE

To the notifying parties:

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

**Subject: Case No COMP/M.6624 - BEKAERT / SOUTHERN STEEL BERHAD /
BEKAERT SOUTHERN WIRE
Commission decision pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No
139/2004¹**

1. On 25.06.2012, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which NV Bekaert SA ("Bekaert", Belgium) and Southern Steel Berhad ("Southern Steel", Malaysia), a subsidiary of Hong Leong Company (Malaysia) Berhad (the "Hong Leong Group", Malaysia), acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation joint control over of a newly created joint venture ("Bekaert Southern Wire Pte Ltd.", Singapore), by way of a purchase of shares².
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - for Bekaert: producing and marketing a wide range of products in the areas of drawn steel wire, advanced metal transformation, advanced materials and coatings.

¹ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 ("the Merger Regulation"). With effect from 1 December 2009, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ("TFEU") has introduced certain changes, such as the replacement of "Community" by "Union" and "common market" by "internal market". The terminology of the TFEU will be used throughout this decision.

² Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No C 196,04/07/2012, p.16

- for Southern Steel: manufacturing, sale and trading in steel products. Southern Steel is a subsidiary of the Hong Leong Group, a large conglomerate active in property development, hotel ownership, as well as management, finance and manufacturing of industrial and building materials.
 - for the joint venture: manufacturing and sale of steel wire in the ASEAN region (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam).
3. After examination of the notification, the European Commission has concluded that the notified operation falls within the scope of the Merger Regulation and of paragraph 5(a) and (c) of the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004³.
 4. For the reasons set out in the Notice on a simplified procedure, the European Commission has decided not to oppose the notified operation and to declare it compatible with the internal market and with the EEA Agreement. This decision is adopted in application of Article 6(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation.

For the Commission

(signed)
Alexander ITALIANER
Director General

³ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32.