

***Case No COMP/M.7475 - EDENRED/
HERMES/ ECKSTEIN/ UTA***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION

Date: 23/01/2015

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 23.1.2015
C(2015) 404 final

PUBLIC VERSION

SIMPLIFIED MERGER
PROCEDURE

To the notifying party:

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

**Subject: Case M.7475 - EDENRED / HERMES / ECKSTEIN / UTA
Commission decision pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC)
No 139/2004¹ and Article 57 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area²**

1. On 19 December 2014, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which the undertakings Edenred SA (France), Hermes Mineralöl-GmbH (“Hermes”, Germany) and Familien-Gesellschaft Eckstein mbH Verwaltungs-KG (“Eckstein”, Germany) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control of UNION TANK Eckstein GmbH & Co. KG and UNION TANK Eckstein GmbH (together “UTA”, Germany), by way of purchase of shares.³

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 OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p.3 (“the EEA Agreement”).

³ Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No C 466, 30.12.2014, p. 7.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - Edenred: provision of prepaid corporate services, and design and management of solutions related to employee benefits, expense management, incentive reward and management of public social programs;
 - UTA: issuance and management of fuel and service cards for customers active in commercial goods and passenger transport;
 - Hermes and Eckstein: family-owned holding companies without business operations.
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(c) of the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004.⁴
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 and Article 57 of the EEA Agreement.

For the Commission
(signed)
Alexander ITALIANER
Director-General

⁴ OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.