

***Case No COMP/M.7517 - HEBEI IRON & STEEL GROUP/
DPH/ DUFERCO INTERNATIONAL TRADING HOLDING***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION

Date: 09/04/2015

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 9.4.2015
C(2015)2447

PUBLIC VERSION

SIMPLIFIED MERGER
PROCEDURE

To the notifying parties:

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

**Subject: Case M.7517-HEBEI IRON & STEEL GROUP/ DPH/ DUFERCO
INTERNATIONAL TRADING HOLDING
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 3 [February]* 2015, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which the undertaking Hebei Iron & Steel Group ('HBIS', China) and Duferco Participations Holding S.A ('DPH', Luxembourg) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation joint control of the undertaking Duferco International Holding ('DITH' Luxembourg) by way of purchase of shares. DITH is currently controlled by DPH.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").

* Corrigendum: should read "March".

³ Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No C 083, 11.03.2015, p. 15.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
- for Hebei Iron&Steel Group (HBIS): production and sale of iron and steel goods;
 - for Duferco Participations Holding S.A (DPH): holding company owning activities including the steel sector;

The business activities of Duferco International Holding (DITH) are: trading and non-stockholding distribution of steel goods.

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.