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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Competition

Case M.7824 - VITA CENTRAL EUROPE / WALMARK

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 11/02/2016

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 11.02.2016
C(2016) 950 final

PUBLIC VERSION
SIMPLIFIED MERGER PROCEDURE

To the notifying party:

Dear Sirs,

**Subject: Case M.7824 - VITA CENTRAL EUROPE / WALMARK
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 18.01.2016, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 and following a referral pursuant to Article 4(5) of the Merger Regulation by which the undertaking Vita Central Europe B.V. ('Vita Central', The Netherlands), belonging to the private equity group known as Mid Europa ('Mid Europa', United Kingdom), acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation control of the whole of the undertaking Walmark, a.s. ('Walmark', Czech Republic), currently jointly controlled by Vita Central and Aternus, a.s. ('Aternus', Czech Republic), by way of purchase of shares.³
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - Mid Europa: private equity group which invests in a number of sectors, including healthcare, retail, business services, logistics, telecommunications and leisure in Central and Eastern Europe and Turkey. Mid Europa owns, amongst others, Zabka, a chain of convenience stores in Poland.

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 028, 26.01.2016, p.6.

- Vita Central: investment vehicle.
 - Walmark: is active in the field of the production and distribution of dietary supplements, over-the-counter ('OTC') pharmaceuticals and other related products, mainly in Central and Eastern Europe.
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(d) 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)*

*Johannes LAITENBERGER
Director-General*

⁴ OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.