



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DG Competition

***Case M.7879 - SAUDI  
ARAMCO / LANXESS /  
JV***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

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Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION  
Date: 08/01/2016

***In electronic form on the EUR-Lex website under document  
number 32016M7879***



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 08.01.2016  
C(2016)102 final

PUBLIC VERSION

SIMPLIFIED MERGER  
PROCEDURE

**To the notifying parties:**

Dear Sirs,

**Subject: Case M.7879 - SAUDI ARAMCO / LANXESS / JV  
Commission decision pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC)  
No 139/2004<sup>1</sup> and Article 57 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area<sup>2</sup>**

1. On 04 December 2015, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which the undertakings Aramco Overseas Company, B.V. ("AOC", the Netherlands), a wholly owned subsidiary of Saudi Arabian Oil Company ("Saudi Aramco", the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and Lanxess Deutschland GmbH ("Lanxess", Germany) acquire within the meaning of Articles 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation control of a newly established joint venture company ("JV") by way of purchase of shares and transfer of assets.<sup>3</sup>
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
  - Saudi Aramco is engaged in the exploration, production and marketing of crude oil and refined products. It also has supporting activities in marine transportation;
  - AOC provides Saudi Aramco with support services and it is active within the purchasing and logistics market and the inspection, engineering, research and

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p. 3 ("the EEA Agreement").

<sup>3</sup> Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union No C 415, 15.12.2015, p. 40.

technology, IT, finance, legal, public relations, HR, international staffing and executive services;

- Laxness is a specialty chemicals company operating on a global basis. Its core business comprises the development, manufacture and sale of plastics, rubber, specialty chemicals and intermediates.
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.<sup>4</sup>
  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*

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<sup>4</sup> OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.