



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Competition

Case M.8126 - HNA GROUP / CARLSON HOTELS

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION

Date: 09/09/2016

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 9.9.2016
C(2016) 5838 final

PUBLIC VERSION

SIMPLIFIED MERGER
PROCEDURE

To the notifying party

Dear Sirs,

**Subject: Case M.8126 – HNA GROUP / CARLSON HOTELS
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 12 August 2016, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which the HNA Group Co., Ltd ('HNA Group', China) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of Carlson Hotels, Inc. ('Carlson Hotels', United States) by way of purchase of shares.³
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - for HNA Group: investing in several sectors encompassing aviation, real estate holdings, capital/financial services, tourism, and shipping/food cold chain logistics,
 - for Carlson: providing hotel accommodation services worldwide.
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

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 304, 20.08.2016, p. 44.

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.