



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DG Competition

***Case M.9089 - HELLMAN  
& FRIEDMAN /  
CONCARDIS PAYMENT  
GROUP***

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: 12/10/2018

***In electronic form on the EUR-Lex website under document  
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Brussels, 12.10.2018  
C(2018) 6855 final

PUBLIC VERSION

**To the notifying party:**

Dear Sirs,

**Subject: Case M.9089 - HELLMAN & FRIEDMAN / CONCARDIS PAYMENT GROUP**  
**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 20 September 2018, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which Hellman & Friedman LLC ("Hellman & Friedman", USA) acquires, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation, sole control of the whole of Concardis Payment Group GmbH ("Concardis", Germany). The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.<sup>3</sup>
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
  - for Hellman & Friedman: private equity investment through funds controlling several portfolio companies in a variety of economic sectors, including notably Nets, active in the provision of payments, cards, and information services in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, and Poland,
  - for Concardis: merchant acquiring services in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.
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>

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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 347, 28. 9. 2018, p. 18

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

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*