



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Competition

***Case M.9313 - EQUISTONE
/ CH&CO***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 13/05/2019

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 13.5.2019
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PUBLIC VERSION

To the notifying party

**Subject: Case M.9313 – Equistone/CH&CO
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**

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. On 11 April 2019, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which Equistone Partners Europe Limited ('Equistone', United Kingdom) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control of the whole of CH & CO Catering Group (Holdings) Limited ('CH&CO', United Kingdom).

The concentration is accomplished by way of purchase of shares.³

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - for Equistone: a private equity investment firm supporting middle market companies by investing as a strategic partner alongside management teams in the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Switzerland,
 - for CH&CO: provides contract catering services and concession foodservices in the United Kingdom.
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(b) of the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004.⁴

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 141, 17.04.2019, p. 7.

⁴ 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