



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DG Competition

***Case M.9612 - CENTRAL  
GROUP / SIGNA PRIME  
/ MAHIS 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: 23/01/2020

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 23.1.2020  
C(2020) 452 final

**PUBLIC VERSION**

**To the notifying parties**

**Subject: Case M.9612 – CENTRAL GROUP / SIGNA PRIME / MAHIS 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>**

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. On 19 December 2019, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which Harnng Central Department Store Ltd (“Central Group”, Thailand) and SIGNA Prime Selection AG (“SIGNA Prime”, Austria), acquire within the meaning of Articles 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control over the whole of Mariahilfer Straße 10-18 Beteiligung S.à .r.l (“Mahis JV”, Luxembourg) by way of purchase of shares.<sup>3</sup>
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
  - for Central Group: merchandising, real estate, retailing, hospitality and restaurants primarily in Southeast Asia including Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam. In the EU, Central Group is active in the retail sector in Italy, Germany and to lesser extent in Denmark. In particular, it operates premium department stores in Berlin, Hamburg and Munich (through The KaDeWe Group).
  - for SIGNA Prime: purchase, development, rental, lease and management of retail and office real estate primarily in Germany and Austria. SIGNA Prime also holds the majority of shares in real estate companies that own certain department store properties of the department store chain GALERIA Karstadt Kaufhof in Germany.
  - for Mahis JV: indirectly holds the real estate property at Mariahilfer Straße 10-18, Vienna, which is currently occupied, in particular, by a furniture store.

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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 4, 08.01.2020, p. 11.

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)*  
*Olivier GUERSENT*  
*Director-General*

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