



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Competition

***Case M.9787 - ČESKÁ SPOŘITELNA /
ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ OBCHODNÍ BANKA /
KOMERČNÍ BANKA / JV***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 06/08/2020

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 6.8.2020
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PUBLIC VERSION

To the notifying parties

**Subject: Case M.9787 -ČESKÁ SPOŘITELNA / ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ
OBCHODNÍ BANKA / KOMERČNÍ BANKA / JV
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 10 July 2020, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which the undertakings Česká spořitelna, a.s. (“ČS”, Czech Republic), belonging to Erste Group Bank AG (Austria), Československá obchodní banka, a.s. (“ČSOB”, Czech Republic), belonging to KBC Group (Belgium), and Komerční banka, a.s. (“KB”, Czech Republic), belonging to Société Générale Group (France) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control of a joint venture company to be created (the “JV”, Czech Republic).

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

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - for ČS, ČSOB and KB: provision of a wide range of banking and financial services to individuals and corporates in the Czech Republic.
 - for the JV: provision of e-identification services in the Czech Republic.

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 238, 20.07.2020, p.14.

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(a) of 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)
Olivier GUERSENT
Director-General

⁴ OJ C 366, 14.12.2013, p. 5.