



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Competition

***Case M.11149 - ASAHI KASEI /
MITSUI CHEMICALS / JV***

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 22/09/2023

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PUBLIC VERSION

Asahi Kasei Corp.
1-1-2 Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
Japan

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc.
1-5-2 Higashi-Shimbashi, Minato-ku
Tokyo
Japan

**Subject: Case M.11149 – ASAHI KASEI / MITSUI CHEMICALS / 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 31 August 2023, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which the undertakings Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. ('Mitsui Chemicals', Japan) and Asahi Kasei Corp. ('Asahi Kasei', Japan) intend to acquire within the meaning of Articles 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control over the undertaking Mitsui Chemicals Asahi Life Material Co., Ltd. (the JV, Japan), a newly created company constituting a joint venture, by way of purchase of shares.³
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are the following:
 - Mitsui Chemicals is a multinational Japanese company engaged in the production and sale of chemical products worldwide. Mitsui Chemicals develops and sells a wide range of specialty products for a broad range of applications, including hygiene, industry, oil absorption, automotive interiors, civil engineering and filters, among others,

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 318, 8.9.2023, p. 6.

- Asahi Kasei is a multinational Japanese chemical company primarily engaged in developing fiber products, chemicals and electronic related materials. It operates in the material, homes, and health care business sectors.
- 3. The JV will engage in the research and development, manufacture, marketing, sale and technical service of nonwoven fabrics made from spunbond process and from meltblown process, nonwoven filter systems and film and shape holding fibers. It will carry on the operations that both Asahi Kasei and Mitsui Chemicals run in Japan and in Thailand for the production, development and sale of nonwovens products.
- 4. 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) and 5 (c) of the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004.⁴
- 5. 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.