



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Competition

Case M.11370 - CENTRAL / SELFRIDGES

Only the English text is available and authentic.

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

Article 6(1)(b) NON-OPPOSITION
Date: 14/12/2023

***In electronic form on the EUR-Lex website under
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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 14.12.2023
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PUBLIC VERSION

Harg Central Department Store
Limited
14th floor, Central Chidlom Tower, 22
Soi Somkid Ploenchit Road, Lumpini,
Pathumwan
10330 Bangkok
Thailand

**Subject: Case M.11370 – CENTRAL / SELFRIDGES
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 22 November 2023, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation by which Harg Central Department Store Limited (“Central Group”, Thailand), controlled by the Chirathivat Family, will acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation sole control over the whole of Cambridge Retail Group Holding Limited (“Cambridge Retail Group”, United Kingdom), currently controlled by Central Group and SIGNA Group, by way of acquisition of shares through a debt-to-equity conversion.³
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are the following:
 - Central Group is active in merchandising, real estate, retailing, hospitality and restaurants. In the EEA, Central Group owns and operates stores in Germany, Italy and Denmark as well conducts property development activities in Germany, Austria, Denmark and Italy,
 - Cambridge Retail Group is the holding company for the Selfridges store group, which is active in the retail of non-food products and to a lesser extent the retail of food. Selfridges store group’s retail business comprises three separate

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, OJ C, C/2023/1316, 29.11.2023.

operating banners: Selfridges, De Bijenkorf and Brown Thomas & Arnotts, with stores located in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Ireland.

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(d) and 5(e) of the Commission Notice on a simplified treatment for 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 160, 5.5.2023, p. 1–10.