

**The Timing of Procedures
Under the Merger Control Regulation**

Stage of the Investigation	Time Allotted	Cumulative Time Permitted
Notification of concentrations having a Community dimension to the EC Commission	1 week from the completion of a binding agreement or announcement of a public bid	1 week
Mandatory suspension of completion of the concentration	3 weeks from notification*	4 weeks
Decision regarding further proceedings under the Regulation	1 month from notification	1 month plus 1 week
Commission decision on the compatibility of the concentration with the common market	4 months from the decision to take further proceedings	5 months plus 1 week

Source: See Articles 4(1), 7(1)-(3), and 10 of the Merger Control Regulation.

*This period may be extended by the Commission to ensure the effectiveness of any later decision that may be taken on the compatibility of concentrations with the common market. Also, separate allowance is made for limited implementation of public bids before 3 weeks.