Over the years, the Commission has taken several initiatives to fast-track its review of unproblematic mergers. In 2000 the Commission introduced a simplified procedure for categories of concentrations that normally do not raise competition concerns: notifying parties are required to provide less information; the Commission generally does not request information from third parties; and the review is generally significantly faster than the applicable legal deadlines. In 2013, the Commission adopted additional measures to further simplify the review process. Currently, the simplified procedure applies to the large majority (approximately 80%) of notified cases. To the extent that the conditions of the simplified procedure are met, this covers innovative investment acquisitions.

In March 2021, the Commission finalised the evaluation of selected procedural and jurisdictional aspects of EU merger control. The evaluation revealed that there is still some room to further streamline the enforcement of EU merger control by the Commission. On 6 May 2022, the Commission has launched the revision of the Merger Implementing Regulation and the Simplified Notice. The current initiative inter alia aims to introduce new categories of simplified cases and further streamline the review of simplified cases. Based on the evidence gathered during the Impact Assessment phase and the comments by the interested parties on the Implementing Regulation and the Notice on Simplified Procedure, the Commission will revise further the drafts subject to consultation. The Commission aims having new rules in place in 2023.

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