Opinion of the Advisory Committee on restrictive practices and dominant positions given at its 394th meeting on 12 September 2005 concerning a draft decision in Case COMP/38.337 — PO/Thread

(2008/C 21/06)

1. The members of the Advisory Committee unanimously agree with the Commission on the basic amounts of the fines determined according to the gravity and duration of the infringements concerning, respectively, industrial thread in the Benelux and Nordic countries and automotive thread in the EEA.
2. The members of the Advisory Committee unanimously agree as regards the infringement concerning industrial thread in the Benelux and Nordic countries, on the reduction of the basic amount for Belgian Sewing Thread NV and Bieze Stork BV due to an attenuating circumstance.
3. The members of the Advisory Committee unanimously agree with the Commission as regards the infringements concerning, respectively, industrial thread in the Benelux and Nordic countries and automotive thread in the EEA, on the reduction of the fines based on the 1996 Commission Notice on the non-imposition or reduction of fines in cartel cases.
4. The members of the Advisory Committee unanimously agree with the Commission on the final amounts of the fines for the cartel of industrial thread in the Benelux and Nordic countries and for the cartel of automotive thread in the EEA.
5. The members of the Advisory Committee unanimously recommend the publication of its opinion in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
6. The members of the Advisory Committee unanimously ask the Commission to take into account all the other points raised during the discussion.