

**OPINION**

**of the Advisory Committee on Concentrations given at the 45th meeting on 9 April 1997 concerning a preliminary draft decision relating to Case No IV/M.856 — British Telecom/MCI**

(97/C 372/05)

In respect of the concentration between BT and MCI notified pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) 4064/89:

1. The Committee agrees with the definitions of the product market contained in the Commission's draft decision.
  2. The Committee agrees with the definitions of the geographical market contained in the Commission's draft decision.
  3. The Committee considers that the proposed merger, as originally notified, would reinforce BT's dominant position in the market for the provision of international voice telephony services on the UK-US route.
  4. The Committee considers that the proposed merger, as originally notified, would reinforce BT's dominant position in the UK market for audioconferencing services.
  5. The Committee agrees with the Commission that the undertakings submitted by the parties are sufficient and adequate to prevent the reinforcement of the dominant positions referred to above brought about by the notified concentration.
  6. The Committee considers that, subject to the condition of full compliance with the commitments made by the parties, the concentration is compatible with the common market and the functioning of the EEA agreement.
  7. The Committee asks the Commission to take account of the other points raised during the discussion.
  8. The Committee recommends publication of its opinion.
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