

English edition

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NOTICE

On 1 March 2000, in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* C 58 A, the 'Common catalogue of varieties of vegetable species — Second supplement to the 21st complete edition' will be published.

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I

(Information)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of 14 February 2000

on the promotion of intermodality and intermodal freight transport in the European Union

(2000/C 56/01)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

in-time logistics, electronic commerce)' with a view to developing actions consistent with the general goal of sustainable mobility.

- (1) WELCOMES the Commission Communication on Intermodality and Intermodal Freight Transport in the European Union of October 1999 and the Communication on the Progress of the Implementation of the Action Programme of June 1997 contained therein.
- (2) NOTES with satisfaction that most projects in the action programme have been launched and encourages the Commission to continue its implementation.
- (3) IS OF THE OPINION that functional and logistically efficient freight transport systems contribute to the development of economic activity within the Community for the benefit of its citizens and enterprises.
- (4) ENDORSES the objective set by the Commission to develop Intermodal Freight Transport, i.e. an optimal integration of different transport modes enabling an efficient and cost-effective use of the transport system through seamless, customer-oriented door-to-door services, whilst favouring competition between transport operators.
- (5) RECALLS that the Council strategy of 6 October 1999 on the integration of environment and sustainable development into the transport policy 'underlines that further progress is required, notably in the . . . promotion of . . . intermodal and combined transport . . . the standardisation and harmonisation of intermodal transport units . . . the competitiveness and the quality of services of ports and other intermodal terminals and railways, e.g. by the increased use of telematics . . . (and the study of) the different liability regimes'.
- (6) EMPHASISES, the need determined by the same strategy 'to continue to analyse the relationship between transport (demand) and . . . the organisation of industrial production and services (globalisation, market deregulation, just-
- (7) REAFFIRMS its determination to promote transport modes contributing to sustainable transport, in particular rail transport, short sea shipping and inland navigations; RECALLS, in this context, its conclusions of 6 October 1999 on the revitalisation of the European railways referring, in particular, to the establishment of a Trans-European Rail Freight Network (TERFN) and its Resolution of 11 March 1996 on short sea shipping ⁽¹⁾, Conclusions of 18 June 1997 and Resolution of 14 February 2000 on the promotion of short sea shipping ⁽²⁾.
- (8) RECALLS the importance of the revision of the relevant legal framework of the Community as well as the importance of research, development and demonstration on intermodal transport and notes with satisfaction the role of studies in this field in key actions of the Fifth RTD Framework Programme established by Decision No 182/1999/EC ⁽³⁾.
- (9) INVITES all parties concerned to work actively towards a sound operational market environment for intermodal transport, so as to make intermodality, where feasible, a viable and environmentally friendly alternative to single mode road transport.
- (10) NOTES that further work must be concentrated on identifying obstacles to intermodal transport in competing successfully in the market.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 99, 2.4.1996, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ See page 1 of this Official Journal

⁽³⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

- (11) INVITES the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, to continue and intensify its work for the promotion of intermodal transport including combined transport, in particular, by:
- (a) including intermodality in its revision of the TEN-T through reference to concrete actions with a view to achieving sustainable mobility, such as:
 - setting up new tools for assessing the ability of planned infrastructures and actions to transfer some road transport demand towards more environmentally friendly modes,
 - alleviating the bottlenecks for intermodalism, including those in the context of TERFN,
 - developing and optimising terminals for intermodal transport;
 - (b) taking account of intermodalism with a view to creating a level playing field in the transport market when submitting, during the year 2000, a proposal for a revision of Regulation (EEC) No 1107/70 of the Council of 4 June 1970 on the granting of aids for transport by rail, road and inland waterway⁽¹⁾ with regard to aid to combined transport;
 - (c) integrating the information society into the European transport system, e.g. by submitting proposals for establishing an open architecture for data transfer and transport telematics;
 - (d) contributing to the realisation of an open and efficient real-time information and transaction systems, as a tool for shippers and intermodal transport operators;
 - (e) continuing, together with the Member States, the industry and relevant international organisations, its efforts to promote an appropriate liability regime in that area, *inter alia*, by exploring the aspects of a liability regime for intermodal transport and by presenting a report on the economic analysis of the consequences of the absence of a generally accepted intermodal liability regime and on the work being undertaken with the industry on the legal and economic advantages of the different solutions for a liability regime for intermodal transport;
 - (f) presenting a communication on 'Benchmarking in Transport' and developing key performance indicators for freight intermodalism; in this context, demonstrating the potential cost-effectiveness of intermodal transport projects and publishing examples and information on best practices, particularly taking into account the experience gained from the Pilot Actions for Combined Transport (PACT)-programme and the different projects under the Fifth RTD Framework Programme,
 - (g) directing, when proposing measures in the field of transport, the measures to the logistic and transport system as a whole and not solely to the individual modes of transport, focusing, *inter alia*, on harmonising the standards related to transport units and on technologies for cheaper, more efficient and environmentally friendly freight handling; to this end, presenting a communication on Supply Chain Management, logistics and intermodal transport by the end of year 2001;
 - (h) planning for an appropriate follow-up to the PACT programme, focussing on innovative projects;
 - (i) extending the action programme on intermodality to more integrated Intelligent Transport System applications, electronic commerce applications and demonstration projects and
 - (j) bolstering the role of research and development projects on intermodal transport in the RTD framework programmes.
- (12) INVITES the applicant countries to follow the above objectives and actions when formulating national and local strategies.
- (13) INTENDS to follow regularly the development in intermodality and intermodal freight transport in the European Union.
- (14) INVITES the Commission to transmit to the Council, in 2001, its next progress report on intermodality and intermodal freight transport in the European Union, with possible proposals.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 130, 15.6.1970, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 543/97 (O) L 84, 26.3.1997, p. 6).

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**of 14 February 2000****on the promotion of short sea shipping**

(2000/C 56/02)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

- (1) WELCOMES the second Commission communication on the development of short sea shipping in Europe and notes that it incorporates the second two-yearly report on progress in the development of short sea shipping requested by the Council in its Conclusions of 18 June 1997.
- (2) NOTES with satisfaction that the Commission communication presents a thorough review of the development of the short sea shipping, identifies the main problem areas where further action is needed in order to promote short sea shipping, outlines a comprehensive long term approach for the development of short sea shipping and makes recommendations for a number of actions to be undertaken by all parties concerned.
- (3) RECONFIRMS the objectives and recommendations for action contained in the Council Resolution of 11 March 1996 on short sea shipping⁽¹⁾ and in the Council Conclusions of 18 June 1997 and NOTES that actions have already been undertaken and initiated on the basis of these recommendations.
- (4) RECALLS that short sea shipping is an environmentally friendly transport mode which contributes to the sustainability of transport, strengthens the cohesion of the Community and contributes to an increased efficiency of the Community's transport system.
- (5) EMPHASISES as a priority objective of the Council the development of short sea shipping into a dynamic part and a viable option in the intermodal door-to-door transport chain between all regions of the Community.
- (6) CONSIDERS that the promotion of short sea shipping in all its aspects, such as container and bulk transport, is an on-going process, which needs to be accelerated with short, medium and long term actions, while respecting the Community rules, amongst others those governing maritime cabotage.
- (7) RECONFIRMS its view that it is primarily up to the industries themselves to develop short sea shipping and that the Council, the Member States and the Commission have an essential role to play, in particular concerning the framework conditions.
- (8) RECALLS that, in its report to the European Council of Helsinki on a strategy on the integration of environment and sustainable development into the transport policy, the Council addresses the need of 'promoting short sea shipping, focusing in particular on the removal of obstacles for its development as an environmentally friendly transport mode' and INVITES the Member States and the Commission to take measures in several areas, which equally lead to promoting short sea shipping.
- (9) CONSIDERS, that the comprehensive approach presented in the Commission Communication forms a good and constructive basis for the future work on reaching the abovementioned priority objective and WELCOMES in general the recommendations for the development of short sea shipping included in that Communication.
- (10) IS OF THE VIEW that it is essential to find practical solutions to existing bottlenecks which hamper the development of short sea shipping and, at this stage of the development process, to focus on certain fields of action and, in particular, on:
 - (a) improving the efficiency of the maritime loading and unloading points in the logistics chain (i.e. intermodal connection points such as ports, terminals etc.) by streamlining the administrative procedures and by developing services and technical infrastructures (i.e. land-based facilities, hinterland connections, loading units etc.);
 - (b) promoting door-to-door package solutions with integrated facilities, such as one-stop shops, through the cooperation between the different transport modes and the different players in the logistic management of the supply chain, through the establishment of best practices, through the examination, with a view to their introduction, of measures such as benchmarking and key performance indicators, through the collection and dissemination of data and information on short sea shipping, amongst others using Eurostat, and through the active use of the cooperation framework provided by the round-tables and the focal points of the Member States and other national initiatives to promote short sea shipping such as national short sea shipping information offices;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 99, 2.4.1996, p. 1.

- (c) creating and testing new technical and market opportunities for short sea shipping, also over distances shorter than its current average distance, by promoting research and development, in particular in respect of land-based facilities, information technologies and ships specially adapted for short sea shipping; in addition, it is recommended to study possibilities for short term financial support for new projects and for the further development of existing projects in this field;
- (d) creating a level playing field for short sea shipping by achieving further progress in fair and efficient pricing for infrastructure, taking into account the work of the Commission's High Level Group on transport infrastructure charging.
- (11) INVITES the parties concerned, including the industries, the transport users, the Member States and the Commission to work actively towards fulfilling the priority objectives and the tasks identified under point 10, and to cooperate towards finding concrete solutions to obstacles standing in the way of the development of short sea shipping.
- (12) INVITES the Commission to continue and intensify its work for the promotion of short sea shipping, in particular by:
- (a) initiating urgently an exercise of compiling, with input from the focal points and other interested parties, a detailed list of bottlenecks and other specific problems and their potential solutions, such as best practices;
- (b) examining and consulting the parties concerned as soon as possible with a view to presenting proposals and/or encouraging the introduction of codes of conduct to simplify and streamline transport-related administrative formalities and documentation in short sea shipping, in particular as regards the uniform application of IMO FAL forms in the Community;
- (c) presenting its inventory of the public financial support to ports and proposals on the access to the market for port services, while taking into account the diversity of circumstances prevailing in the Community ports, such as their peripheral location, as well as public service obligations and the need to maintain a high level of safety;
- (d) examining the possibility of earmarking more existing Community financial resources to the promotion of short sea shipping, of finding further possibilities for such funding, and of creating, in accordance with the rules of the Treaty on State aid and competition, a framework enabling the participation of national resources in initiating new short sea projects;
- (e) developing tools to measure emissions from door-to-door transport chains containing a short sea leg in comparison with transport in one single mode, in order to facilitate a reasoned choice of transport modes;
- (f) following short sea shipping market developments and collecting and disseminating factual information on short sea shipping and its potential;
- (g) studying, in coordination with Short Sea Shipping Focal Points, the competitiveness of door-to-door transport chains containing a short sea leg as compared with other transport modes in relation to transport price in a segmented market;
- (h) taking the needs of short sea shipping constantly into consideration in the application and planning of Community actions and in regional cooperation with the third countries concerned.
- (13) INVITES the Commission to transmit to the Council its next progress report in 2001 and to extend this report to passenger transport in addition to cargo transport.
-

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

28 February 2000

(2000/C 56/03)

1 euro	=	7,4469	Danish krone
	=	334,05	Greek drachma
	=	8,417	Swedish krona
	=	0,6072	Pound sterling
	=	0,9639	United States dollar
	=	1,3969	Canadian dollar
	=	105,22	Japanese yen
	=	1,6064	Swiss franc
	=	8,0625	Norwegian krone
	=	70,8972	Icelandic króna ⁽²⁾
	=	1,571	Australian dollar
	=	1,9889	New Zealand dollar
	=	6,10872	South African rand ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

⁽²⁾ Source: Commission.

NOTICE

(2000/C 56/04)

By Decision of 23 February 2000, the Commission renewed the term of office of Mr Eric VERBORGH as Deputy Director of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions for a period of two and a half years as from 1 July 2000.

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/JV.42 — Asahi Glass/Mitsubishi/F2 Chemicals)**

(2000/C 56/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 21 February 2000 the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 ⁽²⁾, by which Asahi Glass Company Limited (AGC) and the Mitsubishi Corporation (Mitsubishi) acquire, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of F2 Chemicals Limited (F2) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- AGC: glass, chemicals, electronics components and ceramics,
- Mitsubishi: trading, finance and industry in a wide range of fields,
- F2: chemicals (inert fluids).

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified concentration could fall within the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference COMP/JV.42 — Asahi Glass/Mitsubishi/F2 Chemicals, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Avenue de Cortenberg/Kortenberglaan 150,
B-1040 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.1829 — HMTF/Nabisco Group Holdings/Burlington Biscuits/United Biscuits)**

(2000/C 56/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 21 February 2000 the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 ⁽²⁾, by which Mr T. O. Hicks and Nabisco Group Holdings Corporation (Nabisco) acquire, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of United Biscuits (Holdings) plc (UB) by way of public bid announced on 14 December 1999.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- T. O. Hicks (Cayman Islands): canned foods, beverages and other food items,
- Nabisco (United States of America): biscuits and other food products,
- UB (United Kingdom): biscuits and snack foods.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified concentration could fall within the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference COMP/M.1829 — HMTF/Nabisco Group Holdings/Burlington Biscuits/United Biscuits, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Avenue de Cortenberg/Kortenberglaan 150,
B-1040 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.1889 — CLT-UFA/Canal+/VOX)**

(2000/C 56/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 18 February 2000 the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 ⁽²⁾, by which the undertakings CLT-UFA (Luxembourg), a 50/50 joint venture between Audiofina SA (Belgium) and Bertelsmann AG (Germany), and Canal+ SA, belonging to the group Vivendi (France), acquire, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of VOX Film und Fernseh GmbH and VOX Film und Fernseh Geschäftsführungs GmbH (VOX, Germany), by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- CLT-UFA: mainly television and radio broadcasting activities,
- Canal+: mainly pay TV activities,
- VOX: free access television station based in Germany.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified concentration could fall within the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference COMP/M.1889 — CLT-UFA/Canal+/VOX, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Avenue de Cortenberg/Kortenberglaan 150,
B-1040 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.1720 — Fortum/Elektrizitätswerk Wesertal)**

(2000/C 56/08)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 5 January 2000, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the common market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. The full text of the decision is only available in German and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- as a paper version through the sales offices of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (see list on the last page),
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EUR-OP,
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2, rue Mercier,
L-2985 Luxembourg.
Tel. (352) 29 29-42455, fax (352) 29 29-42763.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/JV.35 — Beiselen/Bay Wa/MG Chemag)**

(2000/C 56/09)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 1 February 2000, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the common market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. The full text of the decision is only available in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- as a paper version through the sales offices of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (see list on the last page),
- in electronic form in the 'CEN' version of the CELEX database, under document number 300J0035. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law; for more information concerning subscriptions please contact:

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III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

VP/2000/011

Pre-publication notice

Possibilities for funding from Budget line B5-803 and B3-4101

Call for proposals to support the activities of NGOs and voluntary organisations (B3-4101)

(2000/C 56/10)

This call will provide support for projects proposed by NGOs and networks of NGOs and voluntary organisations which are active in the civil dialogue and in promoting social solidarity. It will draw funding from Budget line B3-4101.

Activities eligible

The call for proposals will be aimed at contributing to and supporting and reinforcing the activities of non-governmental organisations, associations, voluntary organisations and foundations to develop and sustain a permanent and structured dialogue between each other and the European institutions. Eligible organisations will include those which help to promote Community social policy in accordance with Article 136 of the Treaty as organisations which foster solidarity and social cohesion, uphold social rights and champion the cause of the underprivileged and excluded. Emphasis will be attached to the role of voluntary activity.

Financing

The budget made available under this call will be approximately EUR 4 000 000. The financial contribution will not exceed 85 % of the total costs. A maximum of 10 % of the total eligible costs may be co-financed in kind.

Timing

The Commission aims to publish this call for proposals in March 2000. The call will appear in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* (Series C) and on the Website of the European Commission (http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg05/tender_en.htm)

The deadline for the submission of applications will be about 10 weeks after publication.

Texts published in the Official Journal of the European Communities C 56 E

(2000/C 56/11)

These texts are available on:

EUR-Lex: <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex>

EUDOR: <http://eudor.eur-op.eu.int>

CELEX: <http://europa.eu.int/celex>

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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

NOTICE

On 1 March 2000, in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* C 58 A, the 'Common catalogue of varieties of vegetable species — Second supplement to the 21st complete edition' will be published.

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