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I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾**24 August 2001**

(2001/C 239/01)

1 euro	=	7,4449	Danish krone
	=	9,3873	Swedish krona
	=	0,6317	Pound sterling
	=	0,9108	United States dollar
	=	1,4048	Canadian dollar
	=	109,56	Japanese yen
	=	1,5193	Swiss franc
	=	8,106	Norwegian krone
	=	90,31	Icelandic króna ⁽²⁾
	=	1,718	Australian dollar
	=	2,0806	New Zealand dollar
	=	7,632	South African rand ⁽²⁾

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

⁽²⁾ Source: Commission.

**Imposition of a public service obligation in respect of scheduled services on routes within Greece
in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92**

(2001/C 239/02)

1. Pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 the Greek Government has decided to impose, as of 26 October 2001, a public service obligation in respect of scheduled services on the following routes:
- Athens-Astipalaia,

Eight return flights a week and a total of 174 seats a week in each direction throughout the summer, as determined by the IATA.
 - Athens-Ikaria,

— **Athens-Skiros**
Two return flights a week and a total of 20 seats a week in each direction throughout the year.
 - Athens-Leros,

— **Thessaloniki-Samos**
Two return flights a week and a total of 28 seats a week in each direction throughout the year.
 - Athens-Milos,

— **Thessaloniki-Khios**
Two return flights a week and a total of 20 seats a week in each direction throughout the year.
 - Athens-Skiros,

— **Limnos-Mitilini-Khios-Samos-Rodos**
Limnos-Mitilini-Rodos
Two return flights a week and a total of 20 seats a week in each direction throughout the year.
 - Thessaloniki-Samos,

Limnos-Mitilini-Khios-Rodos
One return flight a week and a total of 20 seats a week in each direction throughout the year.
 - Thessaloniki-Khios,

Limnos-Mitilini-Samos-Rodos
One return flight a week and a total of 20 seats a week in each direction throughout the year.
 - Limnos-Mitilini-Khios-Samos-Rodos,

— **Rodos-Karpathos-Kasos**
Rodos-Karpathos
Five return flights a week and a total of 300 seats a week in each direction throughout the year.
 - Rodos-Karpathos-Kasos,

Rodos-Karpathos-Kasos
Five return flights a week and a total of 300 seats a week in each direction throughout the year.
 - Rodos-Kastellorizo,

— **Rodos-Kastellorizo**
Five return flights a week and a total of 50 seats a week in each direction throughout the year.
2. On these routes, the public service obligation is as follows:
- (a) **Minimum frequency of flights and minimum number of seats available each week on each route:**
- **Athens-Astipalaia**
Four return flights a week and a total of 54 seats a week in each direction throughout the year.
 - **Athens-Ikaria**
Four return flights a week and a total of 136 seats a week in each direction throughout the year.
 - **Athens-Leros**
Six return flights a week and a total of 124 seats a week in each direction throughout the winter, as determined by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Seven return flights a week and a total of 145 seats a week in each direction throughout the summer, as determined by the IATA.
 - **Athens-Milos**
Seven return flights a week and a total of 152 seats a week in each direction throughout the winter, as determined by the IATA.

If the average occupancy rate of all the flights on one route has exceeded 75 % during the previous period, the minimum weekly frequency or the minimum number of seats provided each week may be increased in proportion to the increase recorded. This increase shall be notified to the carrier operating the service but shall not come into effect until it has been published by the European Commission in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

If flights are cancelled because of weather conditions, they must be operated on the days immediately afterwards in order to fulfil the weekly requirement, taking into account the minimum number of seats provided pursuant to point 2(a).

(b) Rates

The price of the economy fare may not exceed the following rates:

— Athens-Astipalaia	GRD 15 800 (EUR 46,36),
— Athens-Ikaria	GRD 13 900 (EUR 40,79),
— Athens-Leros	GRD 16 200 (EUR 47,54),
— Athens-Milos	GRD 10 800 (EUR 31,69),
— Athens-Skiros	GRD 9 700 (EUR 28,46),
— Thessaloniki-Samos	GRD 21 600 (EUR 63,38),
— Thessaloniki-Khios	GRD 18 200 (EUR 53,41),
— Limnos-Rodos	GRD 18 000 (EUR 52,82),
— Limnos-Mitilini	GRD 10 700 (EUR 31,40),
— Limnos-Khios	GRD 10 700 (EUR 31,40),
— Limnos-Samos	GRD 10 700 (EUR 31,40),
— Mitilini-Khios	GRD 8 000 (EUR 23,47),
— Mitilini-Samos	GRD 10 700 (EUR 31,40),
— Mitilini-Rodos	GRD 16 000 (EUR 46,95),
— Khios-Samos	GRD 8 000 (EUR 23,47),
— Khios-Rodos	GRD 12 000 (EUR 35,21),
— Samos-Rodos	GRD 10 700 (EUR 31,40),
— Rodos-Kasos	GRD 10 000 (EUR 29,34),
— Rodos-Kasparos	GRD 8 000 (EUR 23,47),
— Kasparos-Kasos	GRD 6 000 (EUR 17,60),
— Rodos-Kastellorizo	GRD 7 000 (EUR 20,54).

The above amounts may be increased in the event of an unforeseen increase in the costs of operating the service outside the control of the carrier. This increase shall be notified to the carrier operating the service but shall not come into effect until it has been published by the European Commission in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

(c) Minimum frequency of flights

According to Article 4(1)(c) of Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92, a carrier intending to operate regular flights on certain routes must give guarantee to operate the route for at least 12 months without interruption.

The number of flights cancelled for reasons for which the carrier is responsible may not exceed 2 % of the total annual number of flights, except in cases of *force majeure*.

Any intention to cease operation of any of the aforementioned routes must be notified by the air carrier to the Civil Aviation Department, Directorate for Air Operations, Section for Bilateral Air Agreements, at least six months before services are interrupted.

3. Useful information

Operation of flights by a Community carrier who does not fulfil the public service obligations imposed may result in the imposition of administrative or other sanctions.

As regards the types of aircraft to be used, air carriers are asked to consult Aeronautical Information Publications of Greece (Air Greece) as regards technical and business data and airport procedures.

As regards timetables, arrivals and departures of aircraft must be planned within the operating times of airports as determined by decision of the Minister for Transport and Communications.

It should be noted that in cases where an air carrier has not declared to the Civil Aviation Department, Directorate for Air Operations, an intention to operate scheduled services as of 26 October 2001 on one or more of the abovementioned lines without financial compensation, Greece has decided, under the procedures in Article 4(1)(d) of Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92, to limit access to the route to only one carrier for a period of up to three years (in accordance with the invitation to tender published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*) and, subsequent to the invitation to tender, to grant the right to operate those services as of 26 October 2001.

Communication from the Commission amending the guidelines for a Community initiative concerning trans-European cooperation intended to encourage the harmonious and balanced development of the European territory — Interreg III

(2001/C 239/03)

1. The Commission of the European Communities decided on 23 August 2001 to amend the guidelines for the Interreg III Community initiative ⁽¹⁾ (hereafter referred to as 'the guidelines') to take account of certain recent developments.
2. These amendments received the positive opinion of the Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions in its meeting on 17 July 2001.
3. The amendments refer to (a) cross-border cooperation across the Adriatic; (b) the involvement of Vienna in external cross-border cooperation programmes; and (c) minor modifications in the list of eligible areas for Interreg IIIB.

Cross-border cooperation across the Adriatic

Background

4. A Commission statement, attached to the guidelines, states that '[w]hen the political conditions to encourage cooperation under Interreg III between the Italian regions and those of the third countries of the Adriatic are met, the Commission will examine the most suitable methods of encouraging this cooperation with the other cooperation instruments'.
5. In addition, point 46 of the guidelines states that 'following the creation of any new Community instrument for peace and reconstruction in the Balkans, the Commission will, when appropriate, examine the possibilities of promoting coordination of Interreg III with such an instrument under arrangements to be defined at the time, in particular for the Italian Adriatic regions'.
6. With the adoption of Council Regulation (EC) No 2666/2000 of 5 December 2000 on assistance for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a new Community instrument for the Balkans is in place, and the Commission has therefore considered the possibilities for promoting coordination between it and Interreg III.
7. In the light of the creation of this new financial instrument and the positive political developments in the region, the Commission considers that Interreg III should be able to assist cross-border cooperation across the Adriatic.

Amendment to the guidelines

8. Annex I of the guidelines is amended to include, under the heading 'ITALIA', the following NUTS III areas: 'Ancona; Ascoli Piceno; Campobasso; Chieti; Ferrara; Foggia; Forlì-Cesena; Macerata; Pesaro e Urbino; Pescara; Ravenna; Rimini; Rovigo; Teramo'.
9. In addition, the word 'CARDS' is added after the word 'MEDA' in the following points: 7, 25, 36, 43, 45, 46, 49 and in the title of section VII.

Involvement of Vienna in external cross-border cooperation programmes

Background

10. Annex I of the guidelines identifies Vienna, Wiener Umland/Nordteil and Wiener Umland/Südteil as eligible areas in the framework of cross-border cooperation, but does not specify with whom. Given the economic, geographical and political importance of these areas in the context of cross-border relations with neighbouring countries, it is important to clarify with which countries they can cooperate.

As Vienna, Wiener Umland/Nordteil and Wiener Umland/Südteil will participate in their own right in several cross-border cooperation programmes, the Commission should be able to fix the details of that participation.

Amendment to the guidelines

11. Annex I of the guidelines is amended as follows: under 'ÖSTERREICH', the following text: 'Wien, Wiener Umland/Nordteil, Wiener Umland/Südteil' should be replaced by: 'Wien (cooperation with the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary), Wiener Umland/Nordteil (cooperation with the Czech Republic and Slovakia), Wiener Umland/Südteil (cooperation with Slovakia and Hungary)'.
12. In point 35 of the guidelines a new paragraph is added after the first paragraph as follows:

'With regard to a NUTS III zone listed in Annex I participating in several cross-border cooperation programmes involving countries benefiting from PHARE-CBC, or the participation of NUTS III zones covered by point 10, paragraph 2 in such programmes, the details of this participation will be agreed between the Commission and the designated authorities in the Member States, in agreement with the bordering countries concerned.'

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 143, 23.5.2000, p. 6.

Modifications to the list of eligible areas for Interreg IIIB*Background*

13. Paragraph 2 of point 13 of the guidelines permits Member States to request duly justified modifications to the list of eligible areas for Interreg IIIB as set out in Annex III of the guidelines. The Commission has received and accepted a number of these requests. Consequently, Annex III requires updating.

Under North Sea Area, Sweden: add 'Kronobergs län, Skåne län';

Under Northern Periphery, Sweden: add 'Gävleborgs län';

Under Northern Periphery, Finland: add 'Keski-Suomi' after 'Pohjois-Pohjanmaa';

Under Atlantic Area, Spain: add 'Canarias, Sevilla, Cádiz';

Amendment to the guidelines

14. Annex III of the guidelines is modified as follows:

Under Western Mediterranean, Portugal: add 'Alentejo'.

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.2586 — CE/Yorkshire Electric)

(2001/C 239/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 16 August 2001 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 CE Electric UK plc (CE Electric), belonging to the MidAmerican Holdings Company group (MEHC), acquires, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, control of the whole of Yorkshire Power Group Limited (Yorkshire Power), by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- MEHC: generating, transmitting, distributing and selling electricity and natural gas in the USA and construction in the USA and the Philippines,
- CE Electric: distribution and supply of electricity in the UK; gas exploration and development in the North Sea,
- Yorkshire Power: distribution of electricity in the United Kingdom.

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.2586 — CE/Yorkshire Electric, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Rue Joseph II/Jozef II-straat 70,
B-1000 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.2580 — Collins & Aikman Products/Textron Automotive Trim)****Candidate case for simplified procedure**

(2001/C 239/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 13 August 2001 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 US-based undertaking Collins & Aikman Corporation (C & AC), controlled by Heartland Industrial Partners LP (Heartland), acquires, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, control of parts of the US-based undertaking Textron Inc. (Textron), hereby acquiring all subsidiaries of Textron Automotive Trim (Automotive Trim) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- C & AC: automotive interior products and automotive roof systems,
- Heartland: US-based private investment company,
- Textron: multi-industry company with operations in the aircraft and automotive industry, industrial products and finance,
- Automotive Trim: automotive interior and exterior products.

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. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽³⁾, it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the notice.

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.2580 — Collins & Aikman Products/Textron Automotive Trim, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Rue Joseph II/Jozef II-straat 70,
B-1000 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.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 217, 29.7.2000, p. 32.

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case COMP/M.2535 — Sogefi/Filtrauto)

(2001/C 239/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 16 August 2001 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 undertaking Sogefi SpA (Sogefi), Italy, belonging to the group De Beneditti,, acquires, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, control of the whole of the undertaking Filtrauto SA (Filtrauto), France, belonging to the group Valeo, by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Sogefi: manufacture and sales of automotive filters and components for automotive suspensions,
- Filtrauto: manufacture and sales of automotive filters.

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.2535 — Sogefi/Filtrauto, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Rue Joseph II/Jozef II-straat 70,
B-1000 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.2337 — Nestlé/Ralston Purina)**

(2001/C 239/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 27 July 2001 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(2) 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 No 301M2337. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law.

For more information concerning subscriptions please contact:

EUR-OP,
Information, Marketing and Public Relations,
2, rue Mercier,
L-2985 Luxembourg.
Tel. (352) 29 29 427 18, fax (352) 29 29 427 09.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.2438 — SES/Stork/Fokker Space)**

(2001/C 239/08)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 24 July 2001 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 No 301M2438. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law.

For more information concerning subscriptions please contact:

EUR-OP,
Information, Marketing and Public Relations,
2, rue Mercier,
L-2985 Luxembourg.
Tel. (352) 29 29 427 18, fax (352) 29 29 427 09.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.2473 — Finnforest/Moelven Industrier)**

(2001/C 239/09)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 18 July 2001 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 No 301M2473. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law.

For more information concerning subscriptions please contact:

EUR-OP,
Information, Marketing and Public Relations,
2, rue Mercier,
L-2985 Luxembourg.
Tel. (352) 29 29 427 18, fax (352) 29 29 427 09.

Initiation of proceedings**(Case COMP/M.2420 — Mitsui/CVRD/Caemi)**

(2001/C 239/10)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 3 July 2001 the Commission decided to initiate proceedings in the abovementioned case after finding that the notified concentration raises serious doubts as to its compatibility with the common market. The initiation of proceedings opens a second phase investigation with regards to the notified concentration. The decision is based on Article 6(1)(c) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89.

The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their observations on the proposed concentration.

In order to be fully taken into account in the procedure, observations should reach the Commission not later than 15 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.2420 — Mitsui/CVRD/Caemi, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Rue Joseph II/Jozef II-straat 70,
B-1000 Brussels.

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Projects that may benefit from a Eurostat grant during the years 2001 and 2002

(2001/C 239/11)

The public is hereby informed of projects that may benefit from a Eurostat grant during the years 2001 and 2002.

The electronic file, which compiles the actions concerned (classified by statistical theme, unit and accompanied by a description, more detailed information as well as the name and details of the project officer) is to be found on the **Europa server** (<http://europa.eu.int>).

In concrete terms, you can reach the page concerned via 'Institutions', 'Commission', 'Directorates-General and services', 'Eurostat', 'Website', 'Other information', 'Calls for tenders and grants' and then enter the file **'Eurostat Grants 2001-2002'**.

Please read the information accompanying this file carefully, as the difference between the category of actions reserved for the European statistical system (ESS) (*for information*) and the category of actions open for competition (*for action*) is explained.

For the latter category only, you are kindly requested to inform us of your interest in carrying out these (or some of these) actions by contacting the address below, referring to the relevant topic(s) and giving a description of your experience:

Mr R. Lane
European Commission
Eurostat
Bureau d'enregistrement du courrier (BEC)
Bâtiment Jean Monnet
Rue Alcide de Gasperi
L-2920 Luxembourg (Kirchberg)

Your application will automatically be taken into account and additional and more detailed information will be sent to you on preparation of the file, allowing you, if desired, to introduce a more detailed proposal to carry out the project.

At the moment, the standard grant application form should be completed so that the usual checks can be made of the selection and award criteria defined by the Commission.

It should be noted that co-financing of the project is always required. The rate for such co-financing will be determined per project and in relation to the credits available in the units but with a *minimum of 10 % of the eligible costs*. This rate will be announced beforehand when sending out the applications forms.

Deadline for sending in proposals of interest to participate: up until 28 September 2001 inclusive. Non-respect of this delay will automatically result in refusal of your application.
