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I

(Information)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

of 19 December 2002

on the 'Television without Frontiers' Directive

(2003/C 13/01)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

1. RECALLS the meeting of the Council of 23 May 2002 which highlighted the broad consensus that there is a need for extensive preparation before the elaboration of any future proposals concerning the Directive.
2. POINTS OUT the importance of building, *inter alia*, upon Member States' experience in the area, including in the field of statutory legislation, co-regulation, and self-regulation.
3. WISHES to emphasise the importance of upholding the dual cultural and economic dimension of television broadcasting media, and finds it fruitful to exchange views on current experiences.
4. RECALLS the underlying principles on which the Directive is based, some of which can be summarised as follows:
 - to ensure the free movement of television broadcasting services in the Community, on the basis of the country of origin principle,
 - to promote cultural and linguistic diversity and the strengthening of the European audiovisual industry,
 - to reinforce the indispensable role of television broadcasting in the democratic, social, and cultural life of society.
5. UNDERLINES that, in order to set up a regulatory framework favourable to the development of the sector and to facilitate access of citizens to a wide choice of television programmes from different Member States, it is important that the Commission in its reflections, *inter alia* on the basis of the experience of Member States, also consider if there is a need to take into account other developments of importance to the broadcasting sector, especially the implications of new means of delivery of audiovisual content, for example interactive media.
6. LOOKS FORWARD to the Commission's forthcoming report on the application of the TWF Directive, and to in-depth discussions in the preparation by the Commission of any future proposals concerning the Directive, in particular in the Contact Committee, which has been set up, *inter alia*, to discuss questions pertaining to the Directive.
7. EXPRESSES its intention to take stock regularly of the progress of these discussions.

—————

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of 19 December 2002

on the promotion of enhanced European cooperation in vocational education and training

(2003/C 13/02)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Whereas:

- (1) Education and training are indispensable means for promoting employability, social cohesion, active citizenship, and personal as well as professional fulfilment.
- (2) Vocational education and training systems play a key role in providing competences and qualifications. Developing a knowledge-based Europe is a major challenge to the vocational educational and training systems in Europe and to all actors involved. In this context it is important to ensure that the European labour market is open and accessible to all.
- (3) Vocational education and training in the European Union comprise a wide diversity of legislation, education and training structures and key actors including both governments and the social partners and the enlargement of the Union will increase this diversity. Creating a European area of knowledge is the way both to build on this diversity, but also to sustain and protect it.
- (4) The action set out in this resolution respects the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and in particular its Article 14, which declares that everyone has the right to education and to have access to vocational and continuing training.
- (5) The Lisbon European Council in March 2000 recognised the important role of education as an integral part of economic and social policies, as an instrument for strengthening Europe's competitive power worldwide, and as a guarantee for ensuring the cohesion of our societies and the full development of its citizens. The European Council set the strategic objective for the European Union to become the world's most dynamic knowledge-based economy. The development of high-quality vocational education and training is a crucial and integral part of this strategy, notably in terms of promoting social inclusion, cohesion, mobility, employability and competitiveness.
- (6) The report on the 'Concrete future objectives of education and training systems', endorsed by the Stockholm European Council in March 2001, identified new areas for joint actions at European level in order to achieve the goals set at the Lisbon European Council. These areas are based on the three strategic objectives of the report, namely improving the quality and effectiveness of education and training systems in the European Union, facilitating access for all to education and training systems, and opening up education and training systems to the wider world.
- (7) Recommendation 2001/613/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 July 2001 on mobility within the Community for students, persons undergoing training, young volunteers, teachers and trainers ⁽¹⁾, and the action plan on mobility endorsed by the Nice European Council, December 2000, listed a series of measures to promote mobility.
- (8) In Barcelona, in March 2002 the European Council endorsed the work programme on the follow-up of the objectives report calling for European education and training to become a world quality reference by 2010. Furthermore, it called for further action to introduce instruments to ensure the transparency of diplomas and qualifications, including by promoting action similar to the Bologna process, but adapted to the field of vocational education and training.
- (9) The Resolution on lifelong learning ⁽²⁾ was adopted by the Council on 27 June 2002. In particular, under the priority of valuing learning, the Resolution, responding to the Lisbon and Barcelona conclusions, forms a basis for the initiative towards closer cooperation in vocational education and training, *inter alia* in the fields of transparency, recognition and transferability, quality and transnational projects. This was previously confirmed by the Resolution on skills and mobility ⁽³⁾ adopted by the Council on 3 June 2002.

NOTES that the transition towards a knowledge-based economy capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion brings new challenges to the development of human resources;

NOTES that the adaptability and employability of young people and adults, including older workers, depend strongly on access to high-quality initial education and training and the opportunity to update and acquire new skills throughout working life;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 215, 9.8.2001, p. 30.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 163, 9.7.2002, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 162, 6.7.2002, p. 1.

NOTES that increased cooperation in European vocational education and training at all levels, including formal and non-formal learning, must be pursued within a lifelong learning perspective, emphasising the need for appropriate links between initial and continuing education and training. These links are necessary to overcome fragmentation between different forms of provision and to make full use of the positive diversity of vocational education and training currently to be found within Europe;

NOTES the relevant activities already under way in a number of Community agencies, for example Cedefop and the European Training Foundation, informal forums at Community level, for example, the meetings of the Directors-General for Vocational Training, the existing forums on transparency and quality, as well as within relevant international organisations and stresses the need for complementarity between them;

NOTES that the European social partners have agreed in the context of the European social dialogue on a framework of actions for the lifelong development of competences and qualifications. The member organisations of the European social partners will promote this framework in Member States at all appropriate levels, taking account of national policies and practices;

NOTES that the conference on 'Increased cooperation in vocational education and training' in Brussels, June 2002, with the participation of Member States, the Commission, candidate countries, EEA countries and the social partners, highlighted certain working principles and priorities for increased cooperation in vocational education and training;

STRESSES that it is necessary to strengthen and develop closer European cooperation in vocational education and training to support the idea that citizens can move freely between different jobs, regions, sectors and countries in Europe;

STRESSES that there is a need to improve the quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training in Europe;

STRESSES that enhanced cooperation should be based *inter alia* on the following working principles:

- cooperation should be based on the target of 2010, set by the European Council in accordance with the detailed work programme and the follow-up of the Objectives report in order to ensure coherence with the objectives set by the Council,
- measures should be voluntary and principally developed through bottom-up cooperation,
- initiatives must be focused on the needs of citizens and user organisations,

- cooperation should be inclusive and involve Member States, the Commission, candidate countries, EFTA-EEA countries and the social partners,

STRESSES that within this closer cooperation special consideration should be given to the principle of gender mainstreaming and social inclusion.

REAFFIRMS:

1. Its commitment to enhanced cooperation in vocational education and training in order to remove obstacles to occupational and geographic mobility and promote access to lifelong learning. This involves taking steps to increase transparency and recognition of competences and qualifications within vocational education and training systems and to promote closer cooperation regarding quality in European vocational education and training systems as a sound basis for mutual trust.
2. That further cooperation in vocational education and training should be enhanced by the actions and policies developed primarily in the context of the report on the 'Concrete future objectives of education and training systems', taking into account the Resolution on Lifelong Learning, but also in the context of the European employment strategy. Important means to achieve these ends are the Community education and training instruments in particular the Leonardo da Vinci programme, the European Social Fund, and initiatives for e-learning and foreign languages.

ACKNOWLEDGES that priority should be given to the following:

European dimension

- Strengthening the European dimension in vocational education and training with the aim of improving closer cooperation in order to facilitate and promote mobility and the development of interinstitutional cooperation, partnerships and other transnational initiatives, all in order to raise the profile of the European education and training area in an international context so that Europe will be recognised as a worldwide reference for learners.

Transparency, information and guidance

- Increasing transparency in vocational education and training through the implementation and rationalisation of information tools and networks, including the integration of existing instruments such as the European CV, certificate and diploma supplements, the Common European framework of reference for languages and the Europass into one single framework.

- Strengthening policies, systems and practices that support information, guidance and counselling in the Member States, at all levels of education, training and employment, particularly on issues concerning access to learning, vocational education and training, and the transferability and recognition of competences and qualifications, in order to support occupational and geographical mobility of citizens in Europe.

Recognition of competences and qualifications

- Investigating how transparency, comparability, transferability and recognition of competences and/or qualifications, between different countries and at different levels, could be promoted by developing reference levels, common principles for certification, and common measures, including a credit transfer system for vocational education and training.
- Increasing support to the development of competences and qualifications at sectoral level, by reinforcing cooperation and coordination especially involving the social partners. Several initiatives on a Community, bilateral and multi-lateral basis, including those already identified in various sectors aiming at mutually recognised qualifications, illustrate this approach.
- Developing a set of common principles regarding validation of non-formal and informal learning with the aim of ensuring greater compatibility between approaches in different countries and at different levels.

Quality assurance

- Promoting cooperation in quality assurance with particular focus on exchange of models and methods, as well as

common criteria and principles for quality in vocational education and training.

- Giving attention to the learning needs of teachers and trainers within all forms of vocational education and training.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- to take the appropriate steps to initiate the implementation of the priorities set out in this resolution,
- to build on and adapt existing structures and instruments in Europe relevant to the above priorities, and establish, where appropriate, links with work in the context of the Bologna declaration,
- fully to involve the key players, particularly the social partners, and the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training,
- to involve, in accordance with existing objectives and agreements, the candidate and EFTA-EEA countries in this process,
- to enhance cooperation, where appropriate, with relevant international organisations in particular, the OECD, Unesco, ILO and the Council of Europe in the development of vocational education and training policies and concrete actions,
- to submit a progress report as part of the report on the follow-up of the future objectives of education and training systems as requested by the European Council for its spring meeting of 2004.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**of 19 December 2002****implementing the work plan on European cooperation in the field of culture: European added value and mobility of persons and circulation of works in the cultural sector**

(2003/C 13/03)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

1. RECALLING that the Council on 25 June 2002 adopted a Resolution on a work plan for European cooperation in the field of culture, and that this work plan includes as priorities the question of analysing and developing methods to identify and evaluate the added value of European actions in the field of culture, as well as the development and promotion of mobility of persons and circulation of works in the cultural sector;
2. FINDING that European added value is a basic and decisive concept in European cultural cooperation, as well as an overall condition for Community cultural action and that it is therefore also an important premise for the continuation of the work plan in the field of culture;
3. FINDING that further promotion of mobility of persons and circulation of works in the cultural sector is an issue of great importance to the future of cultural cooperation, as well as being a crucial measure in achieving European added value and that it thereby furthers the development of a cultural area common to the peoples in Europe;
4. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the fact that the enlargement of the European Union increases the relevance and importance of dealing with both the concept of European added value and the question of mobility of persons and circulation of works.

I

European added value

5. FINDING that in accordance with the principle of the Treaty establishing the European Community concerning subsidiarity, the European added value of Community cultural actions is to be found in the actions that cannot be sufficiently undertaken at Member State level and therefore, by reason of scale or effects, are better undertaken by the Community;
6. STRESSES that highlighting the concept of European added value has a significant impact on future European cultural cooperation by making cultural actions more consistent, structured, and visible;
7. AGREES that the European added value of Community cultural action is generally understood as the synergy effects which emerge from European cooperation and which constitute a distinctive European dimension in addition to Member State level actions and policies in the field of culture;

8. AGREES that European added value is a dynamic concept and should therefore be implemented in a flexible way;
9. AGREES consequently that the European added value of cultural actions can be identified and evaluated cumulatively through the following points:
 - (i) Actions that encourage cooperation between Member States.
 - (ii) Actions that have a clear multilateral character.
 - (iii) Actions with objectives and effects that are better achieved at Community level than at Member State level.
 - (iv) Actions that address, reach and benefit primarily citizens in Europe, and furthermore enhance mutual knowledge of cultures.
 - (v) Actions that aim at being sustainable and at constituting a long-term contribution to the development of cooperation, integration, and cultures in Europe.
 - (vi) Actions that aim at broad visibility and accessibility;
10. INVITES the Member States and the Commission within their competences and responsibilities, to take into account the content of point 9 in order to achieve and ensure European added value in Community cultural action;
11. AGREES that the Council, until the end of 2004, should take stock of the follow up to points 9 and 10 and INVITES the Commission, in line with its competences, to participate in this process.

II

Mobility of persons and circulation of works in the cultural sector

12. RECALLING that the Council and the European Parliament on several occasions have stressed the importance of measures to promote mobility within the cultural sector — most recently in the Council Resolution of 17 December 1999 on free movement and the European Parliament Resolution of 5 September 2001 on cultural cooperation in the European Union;

13. NOTING, *inter alia*, the report on 'The exploitation and the development of job potential in the cultural sector in the age of digitalisation' and the study on 'Mobility and free movement of people and products in the cultural sector', both published by the Commission, in June 2001 and June 2002 respectively, as well as the expert seminar on mobility in Århus in September 2002;
 14. STRESSES that promotion of mobility of persons and circulation of works in the cultural sector are decisive factors in the dissemination of knowledge, experience, mutual inspiration, and cooperation. The issue of mobility and circulation will thus be an important tool to communicate the diversity of cultures in Europe and strengthen the cultural cooperation;
 15. STRESSES that cultural industries in recent years have experienced major growth with increasing relevance to European economy and employment;
 16. STRESSES that the cultural sector in Europe is characterised by a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises as well as various forms of employment and self-employment, and therefore the sector has a special need for networking, coordination, and dissemination of knowledge and information;
 17. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that some obstacles to mobility as well as ways to increase mobility apply specifically to the cultural sector, while most issues are to be dealt with in a broader and horizontal context, as mentioned for instance in the Conclusions of the European Council in Barcelona 15-16 March 2002;
 18. UNDERLINES that — in accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community — the Community is to take cultural aspects into account in its action and should therefore contribute to the creation of the necessary environment for increased mobility, NOTES the relevant activities already underway in a number of forums at Community level, and STRESSES the need for complementarity between them;
 19. AGREES that the issues listed in the Annex form a basis for further initiatives and actions, and that the Council should regularly take stock of the work done until the end of 2004, including horizontal consideration of the relevant work in other policy areas, and INVITES the Commission, in line with its competences, to participate in this process;
 20. INVITES THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION, according to their respective competences, after due examination, to take concrete measures on Community and/or Member State level in order to ease or promote the mobility of persons and circulation of works in the cultural sector.
-

ANNEX

Possible measures in order to increase the mobility of persons and circulation of works in the cultural sector

In conformity with the principle of subsidiarity and while fully respecting responsibilities within the framework of national legislation, measures should be considered, at Community and Member State level, using as far as possible existing structures and programmes in order to promote mobility and, where appropriate, remove obstacles to mobility.

Measures to promote mobility

1. Develop national information services ('one-stop shops'), in the shape of websites and/or information offices, which coordinate and disseminate practical information (in several languages) on contacts, employment opportunities and conditions, and if appropriate legislation in the European countries;
2. Link-together websites containing information on practical and administrative aspects of mobility, for example within the European cultural portal or the one-stop mobility site currently being developed by the Commission;
3. Improve possibilities for networking among individual artists and cultural operators;
4. Examine ways to disseminate information on and to improve the facilities, such as accommodation and work shops, for visiting artists and cultural operators from Member States;
5. Investigate ways and means to further the general public's knowledge, particularly that of children and young people, of the richness and diversity of the cultures and arts in Europe;
6. Encourage art students and teachers and the like in the cultural field to participate in Community exchange programmes;
7. Facilitate acquisition of mobility skills needed by artists and cultural operators, including linguistic and entrepreneurial skills;
8. Facilitate interdisciplinary and cross-border cooperation between schools and other training institutions in the cultural field, including investigation of ways to improve transparency and recognition of competences and qualifications;
9. Facilitate collection of statistical data on mobility in the cultural field, while taking into account legal and administrative constraints;
10. Promote use of existing support programmes, as well as examine the possibilities of developing national and/or European support mechanisms in order to promote mobility.

Measures to remove possible legal and administrative obstacles to mobility

1. Ensure that citizens are aware of their entitlements under Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 and under existing reciprocal arrangements concerning social security cover, while they are temporarily resident in another Member State;
 2. For Member States, after due examination, to take the measures they consider appropriate, in accordance with Community law and the framework of their national law, so that persons in the cultural sector travelling to another Member State for professional purposes, are not subject, because of their mobility to discrimination with respect to relevant social protection, including the administrative formalities for this protection, such as in the area of health care and social welfare policies;
 3. For Member States to enter into negotiations with each other, so far as it is necessary, with a view to securing, for the benefit of their nationals, the abolition of possible existing double taxation within the Community, following the provisions of the Treaty.
-

COUNCIL RESOLUTION
of 19 December 2002
on interactive media content in Europe
(2003/C 13/04)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

1. NOTES the extensive use of interactive media especially among the younger generations whose everyday life, conditions and education are increasingly influenced by computers, Internet and mobile communication services.
2. NOTES that the skills required in the information society are changing from passive reception of knowledge to active exploration and problem solving.
3. NOTES that interactive media can play an important role for individual enlightenment, innovation in the public and private sector and cultural diversity. The cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe can and should manifest itself in the interactive media content of the future for the benefit of the continued development of cultures in Europe.
4. NOTES that creative interactive media content at both a European and a global level constitute an important and growing market.
5. RECALLS the strategic goal set by the European Council in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March 2000 that the European Union should 'become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion'.
6. RECALLS that the Council on several occasions has stressed the importance of the creative industries — most recently the Council Resolution of 25 June 2002 on a new work plan on European cooperation in the field of culture⁽¹⁾ includes as priority topics encouragement to the development of cultural and creative industries in the Community and development and promotion of mobility of persons and circulation of works in the cultural sector.
7. WELCOMES the relevant studies and activities already under way in the Community as well as at Member State level.
8. STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE in the light of the development of the knowledge society and the development of cultural and creative industries to ensure quality in the content for the new media by combining artistic freedom, creativity, innovation as well as cultural and linguistic diversity. This is a cultural and audiovisual policy challenge that can also be viewed in connection with an industrial policy objective of promoting innovation and securing European businesses a fair share of the market for interactive media content.
9. STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE of consumer protection and youth protection in this context as well as the need to promote access of all citizens to interactive media.
10. CONSIDERS that because interactive media content is a growth sector with wide-ranging cultural and media policy perspectives but still largely at an initial stage when it comes to investments and revenues, there is a need for a stronger focus within both public and private sectors on such content as a new cultural, audiovisual and business phenomenon.
11. RECOGNISES that the European interactive media content industries have a large development potential, contain a high proportion of small and medium sized companies and need to attract finance to underpin their potential.
12. RECOGNISES the importance of public service broadcasters for the development of interactive media content.
13. CONSIDERS that in order to combine cultural diversity and a coherent and integrated European market for interactive cultural content it would be advantageous to focus *inter alia* on:
 - frameworks for transnational European networks of professionals contributing to the diffusion of successes, experiences and development of competence within the interactive media content industries in Europe,
 - availability and adequacy of financing for the development of creative interactive media content in order to strengthen the market position of European interactive media content producers,
 - distribution and marketing of European interactive media content.
14. INVITES Member States and the Commission, according to their respective competences, to:
 - collect information and experience as well as monitor the development of interactive media content production,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 162, 6.7.2002, p. 5.

-
- consider if on the basis of national experiences and actions there is need for initiatives to exchange good practice about the cultural, economic and social dimension of interactive media content,
 - consider how interactive media content industries could benefit from enhanced possibilities to network in order to promote competence development,
 - consider if interactive content poses specific challenges for existing national or Community actions within development, distribution and marketing,
- consider how interactive media content should be used for promoting and disseminating the cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe,
 - consider how the interests of consumers, in particular of young people, are to be taken into account.
15. INVITES the Commission to consider the cultural, linguistic and economic challenges that interactive media content poses at European level and to assess if there is need for adjusted, supplementary or new Community actions to ensure the cultural diversity and the economic development of the sector.
-

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

17 January 2003

(2003/C 13/05)

1 euro =

Currency	Exchange rate	Currency	Exchange rate		
USD	US dollar	1,0652	LVL	Latvian lats	0,6206
JPY	Japanese yen	125,34	MTL	Maltese lira	0,4198
DKK	Danish krone	7,4343	PLN	Polish zloty	4,0682
GBP	Pound sterling	0,6582	ROL	Romanian leu	35708
SEK	Swedish krona	9,175	SIT	Slovenian tolar	230,775
CHF	Swiss franc	1,4598	SKK	Slovak koruna	41,602
ISK	Iceland króna	84,13	TRL	Turkish lira	1775000
NOK	Norwegian krone	7,274	AUD	Australian dollar	1,8012
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9546	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,6304
CYP	Cyprus pound	0,57854	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	8,3073
CZK	Czech koruna	31,425	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,9317
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,8467
HUF	Hungarian forint	246,2	KRW	South Korean won	1249,91
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4524	ZAR	South African rand	9,425

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

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3029 — Société Générale/AIHL Europe)**

(2003/C 13/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 9 January 2003, 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 French undertaking Société Générale (through a number of whollyowned subsidiaries, including ALD International GmbH), acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of that Regulation control of 15 companies (Axus SA (Belgium), Axus Danmark A/S (Denmark), Axus Finland Oy (Finland), Locaplan SA (France), Locacourtage SA (France), Axus Italiana Srl (Italy), Acomindus Srl (Italy), Axus Luxemburg SA (Luxemburg), Axus Nederland BV (the Netherlands), Axus Norge A/S (Norway), Axus Portugal — Gestão de Frotas SA (Portugal), Axus España SA (Spain), Axus Sverige AB (Sweden), Axus UK Limited (United Kingdom) and Alexander Contact Rentals Limited (United Kingdom)) constituting the Axus International Hertz Lease Europe group ('AIHL Europe'), by way of purchase of shares. This group belongs to Axus International Inc., a subsidiary of Ford Motor Company.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Société Générale: retail banking, asset management and investment banking. Through ALD International, Société Générale is active in the full fleet leasing and management services sector,
- AIHL Europe: full fleet leasing and management services.

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.3029 — Société Générale/AIHL Europe, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
J-70,
B-1049 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.3068 — Ascott Group/Goldman Sachs/Orville)**

(2003/C 13/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 13 January 2003, 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 the Ascott Group Limited ('Ascott', Singapore), controlled by Singapore Technologies Pte Ltd ('Singapore Technologies', Singapore) and the Goldman Sachs Group Inc. ('Goldman Sachs', United States of America) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of that Regulation joint control of Orville SAS ('Orville', France), previously controlled by Goldman Sachs, by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Ascott: management of serviced short-stay residences and investment holding,
- Singapore Technologies: conglomerate active in engineering systems, information technology, utilities, real estate financial and property services, hotels and services residence, venture capital fund investment and management,
- Goldman Sachs: global investment bank,
- Orville: management of serviced short-stay residences.

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.3068 — Ascott Group/Goldman Sachs/Orville, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
J-70,
B-1049 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.2980 — Cargill/AOP)**

(2003/C 13/08)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 19 December 2002, 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 302M2980. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law.

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Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.3032 — Interbrew/Brauergilde)**

(2003/C 13/09)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 19 December 2002 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),
- in electronic form in the 'CDE' version of the CELEX database, under document No 302M3032. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law.

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Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.3001 — Celanese/Clariant Emulsion Business)**

(2003/C 13/10)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 16 December 2002 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:

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Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.3021 — Apax/Duke/Focus Wickes/JV)**

(2003/C 13/11)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 14 January 2003, 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),
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CORRIGENDA**Corrigendum to the publication of an application for registration pursuant to Article 6(2) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin**

(Official Journal of the European Communities C 255 of 23 October 2002)

(2003/C 13/12)

On page 14, in point 4.8 'Labelling', first line, the word 'Enterprise' should be deleted.
