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02 29 54427/02 29 98634

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— Liberalisation directives, Article 86 cases  
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02 29 60427/02 29 52514

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3. Information industries and consumer electronics  
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4. Mergers  

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2. Transport
3. Distributive trades & other services
4. Mergers

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4. Mergers

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2. Motor vehicles and other means of transport
3. Food and pharmaceuticals
4. Mergers

Kirtikumar MEHTA
Yves DEVELLENNES
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Luc GYSELEN

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2. Horizontal aid schemes
3. Fiscal issues

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Wouter PIEKE
Klaus-Otto JUNGINGER-DITTEL
Jorma PIHLATIE

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Loretta DORMAL-MARINO
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Joaquín FERNANDEZ MARTIN
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Dominique VAN DER WEE

Reporting directly to Mr Monti

Serge DURANDE
Karen WILLIAMS

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New documentation

European Commission
Directorate-General Competition

This section contains details of recent speeches or articles on competition policy given by Community officials. Copies of these are available from Competition DG’s home page on the World Wide Web at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/speeches/index_2003.html

Speeches by the Commissioner,
1 September – 31 December 2003


Recent developments in European air transport law and policy – Mario MONTI – European Air Law Association 15th Annual Conference – Brussels, Belgium – 06.11.2003


Intervening against Government restraints on Competition: Reflections from the EU expertise – Mario MONTI – Lewis Bernstein Memorial Lecture Department of Justice – Washington DC, USA – 27.10.2003


Concurrence économique et réglementation Politique – Mario MONTI – Cercle Europartенaires – Paris, France – 04.10.2003


Speeches and articles,
Directorate-General Competition staff,
1 July – 31 December 2003


Les grands chantiers de la politique européenne de concurrence – Philip LOWE – Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Les mardis du droit européen de la concurrence – Brussels, Belgium – 07.10.2003

Current issues of EU Competition Law – The new competition enforcement regime – Philip LOWE – Key lecture at the study days of the International League of Competition Law – Barcelona, Spain – 02.10.2003


European competition rules: The new enforcement system for Articles 81 and 82 EC is soon to be reality – Philip LOWE – Kangaroo Group Newsletter – September 2003 – 12.09.2003


Community Publications Competition

New publications and publications coming up shortly

• XXXIIInd report on Competition policy – 2002

• Competition policy newsletter, 2004, Number 2 – Summer 2004

Information about our other publications can be found on the on the DG Competition web site: http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/publications

The annual report is available through the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities or its sales offices. Please refer to the catalogue number when ordering. Requests for free publications should be addressed to the representations of the European Commission in the Member states or to the delegations of the European Commission in other countries.

Most publications, including this newsletter, are available in PDF format on the web site.
Press releases
1 September – 31 December 2003

All texts are available from the Commission’s press release database RAPID at: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/ Enter the reference (e.g. IP/03/14) in the "reference" input box on the research form to retrieve the text of a press release. Note: Language available vary for different press releases.

Antitrust

IP/03/1797 – 19/12/2003 – Commission suspects TeliaSonera (Sweden) of having abused its dominant position in the provision of high-speed Internet access
IP/03/1748 – 16/12/2003 – Commission reaches provisional agreement with FA Premier League and BSkyB over football rights
IP/03/1746 – 16/12/2003 – Commission fines three companies in industrial copper tubes cartel
IP/03/1740 – 16/12/2003 – Commission gives green light for new German ship-financing guarantee schemes
IP/03/1700 – 10/12/2003 – Commission fines members of organic peroxides cartel
IP/03/1651 – 03/12/2003 – Commission fines five companies in carbon and graphite products cartel
IP/03/1607 – 26/11/2003 – Commission adopts more favourable rules on support for innovation in shipbuilding
IP/03/1500 – 05/11/2003 – Commission objects to recommended minimum fee scale of Belgian Architects’ Association
IP/03/1491 – 31/10/2003 – Commission ends monitoring of FIA/Formula One compliance with 2001 settlement
IP/03/1438 – 23/10/2003 – Cross-border mail charges between 17 European postal operators cleared until 2006
IP/03/1405 – 17/10/2003 – Commission clears Austrian system for the disposal of packaging waste
IP/03/1345 – 06/10/2003 – Commission reaches breakthrough with Gazprom and ENI on territorial restriction clauses
IP/03/1341 – 03/10/2003 – Commission proposes new safe harbour for the licensing of patents and know how
IP/03/1340 – 03/10/2003 – Commission launches consultation on draft texts to complete reform of antitrust procedures
IP/03/1330 – 01/10/2003 – Commission fines four companies in sorbates cartel a total of 138.4 EUR million
IP/03/1318 – 30/09/2003 – New rules for car sales and servicing
IP/03/1246 – 15/09/2003 – EU/Japan: Commission welcomes new law allowing Japanese and EU lawyers to work in partnership
IP/03/1203 – 05/09/2003 – Commission reviews first case under new electronic communications regime

State aid

IP/03/1791 – 19/12/2003 – First Commission decision on restructuring of Czech bank
IP/03/1788 – 19/12/2003 – State aid for R&D favouring small and medium-sized enterprises exempted from requirement of prior notification
IP/03/1742 – 16/12/2003 – Air Transport / outermost regions: Commission authorises French State aid to Air Austral to open a Réunion-Paris line
IP/03/1739 – 16/12/2003 – Commission approves aid to encourage the movement of intermodal containers by rail in the United Kingdom
IP/03/1738 – 16/12/2003 – Final decision on tax aid for takeovers of ailing companies
IP/03/1737 – 16/12/2003 – Commission secures withdrawal of the unlimited guarantee granted to EDF, thereby encouraging competition in the energy sector
IP/03/1697 – 10/12/2003 – State aid: Commission approves Italian scheme to encourage combined transport
IP/03/1696 – 10/12/2003 – Commission authorises French and Italian aid to experimental rolling motorway service between Lyon and Turin
IP/03/1688 – 10/12/2003 – Commission launches probe for state aid to Spanish steel company SOLMED
IP/03/1686 – 10/12/2003 – Public financing of television in France between 1988 and 1994 proportional to the cost of its public service obligations

IP/03/1685 – 10/12/2003 – Commission launches state aid probe into apparent VAT rebate in favour of Belgian firm UMICORE S.A.


IP/03/1604 – 26/11/2003 – Commission invites interested parties to submit comments on aid to Stora Enso’s paper mills in Langerbrugge, Belgium.

IP/03/1535 – 11/11/2003 – State aids: Commission invites interested parties to submit comments on Rotterdam-Ruhr propylene project


IP/03/1527 – 11/11/2003 – Italy: Commission approves regional aid to restructure road haulage and to develop combined transport


IP/03/1525 – 11/11/2003 – State aids: Commission approves aid to the Greek Post

IP/03/1502 – 05/11/2003 – Commission decides aid to Spanish coal mining company has to be recovered

IP/03/1490 – 31/10/2003 – Car manufacturing, synthetic fibres and shipbuilding to be governed by special State aid rules until at least 2006

IP/03/1484 – 30/10/2003 – Commission gives strong support to European maritime transport sector

IP/03/1475 – 29/10/2003 – Probe into State aid schemes for publishing industry in Italy

IP/03/1474 – 29/10/2003 – Commission approves aid for Spanolux in the Province of Luxembourg, Belgium

IP/03/1473 – 29/10/2003 – Latest EU Scoreboard on State aid less than half the Member States resort to rescue and restructuring aid

IP/03/1399 – 15/10/2003 – Commission decides on public TV financing in Italy and Portugal

IP/03/1398 – 15/10/2003 – Final decision in the Carsid investigation

IP/03/1394 – 15/10/2003 – Probe on modified aid package in favour of Alstom

IP/03/1387 – 15/10/2003 – The Commission authorises the scheme to compensate the costs suffered by Dutch airlines following the attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States

IP/03/1329 – 01/10/2003 – Commission approves German 'on-board' training aid in favour of maritime seafarers

IP/03/1327 – 01/10/2003 – Combined transport by rail: Commission authorises Italian aid

IP/03/1319 – 01/10/2003 – Formal State aid investigation on six Italian R&D projects in the aeronautical industry

IP/03/1262 – 17/09/2003 – Detailed investigation and last chance for France before it faces a suspension order in the Alstom case

IP/03/1258 – 17/09/2003 – Formal investigation into extension of Italian Law on investment credits

Merger

IP/03/1803 – 19/12/2003 – Commission refers to Belgian competition authorities the merger between Electrabel and the Brussels-capital local authority energy supplier.

IP/03/1802 – 19/12/2003 – Commission clears Russian oil joint venture

IP/03/1801 – 19/12/2003 – Commission approves acquisition of German brewer Spaten by Interbrew

IP/03/1800 – 19/12/2003 – Commission clears acquisition of Duke Energy Europe Northwest by Norsk Hydro

IP/03/1798 – 19/12/2003 – Commission approves the acquisition of the transmission and distribution business of Alstom by Areva

IP/03/1790 – 19/12/2003 – Commission approves Celestica's acquisition of Manufacturers' Services

IP/03/1785 – 19/12/2003 – Commission clears Statoil stake in BP-Sonatrach In Salah natural gas joint venture

IP/03/1759 – 17/12/2003 – Commission clears the proposed acquisition of Midlands Electricity by E.ON.

IP/03/1758 – 17/12/2003 – Commission clears acquisition by Tchibo of Allianz's stake in Beiersdorf

IP/03/1744 – 16/12/2003 – Commission adopts merger control guidelines
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IP/03/1736 – 16/12/2003 – Commission clears, subject to conditions, a Spanish printing venture between Prisa, Polestar and Ibersuizas

IP/03/1730 – 15/12/2003 – Commission approves Italian bank-insurance JV between Generali and Banca Intesa

IP/03/1720 – 12/12/2003 – Commission approves acquisition of tractor manufacturer Valtra by AGCO

IP/03/1719 – 12/12/2003 – Commission clears Dutch dredging JV between the BAM and Van Oord groups

IP/03/1712 – 11/12/2003 – Commission authorises CRH and SAMSE to take over building materials company Doras

IP/03/1703 – 10/12/2003 – Commission approves alliance between BA and Iberia

IP/03/1676 – 09/12/2003 – Air France and Alitalia propose competition remedies for their bilateral alliance

IP/03/1675 – 09/12/2003 – Commission clears northern England train JV between FirstGroup and Keolis

IP/03/1674 – 09/12/2003 – Commission clears Outokumpu's control of Boliden

IP/03/1666 – 05/12/2003 – Commission clears GE's acquisition of Agfa's NDT business, subject to conditions

IP/03/1654 – 03/12/2003 – Commission clears acquisition of Kumba Resources by Anglo American

IP/03/1639 – 02/12/2003 – Commission clears Preem's full control of the Swedish Scanraff oil refinery

IP/03/1621 – 27/11/2003 – Commission welcomes agreement on new Merger Regulation

IP/03/1586 – 21/11/2003 – Commission clears split of BEB's gas marketing business in Germany between ExxonMobil and Shell

IP/03/1564 – 18/11/2003 – Company law: Commission proposes Directive on cross-border mergers

IP/03/1556 – 17/11/2003 – Commission probes Oracle's take over bid for PeopleSoft

IP/03/1531 – 11/11/2003 – Commission gives its unconditional approval to the SEB/Moulinex merger in Spain, Finland, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom

IP/03/1493 – 03/11/2003 – Commission approves merger in the Spanish insurance sector

IP/03/1480 – 30/10/2003 – Commission clears Swedish electricity merger

IP/03/1442 – 23/10/2003 – Commission deepens probe into the joint control of French bearings maker SNFA by INA/FAG and insurer AIG

IP/03/1441 – 23/10/2003 – Commission refers examination of BAT/ETI tobacco merger to the Italian competition authority

IP/03/1379 – 13/10/2003 – Commission clears acquisition of Buhrmann's paper merchanting division by PaperlinX

IP/03/1339 – 03/10/2003 – Commission clears acquisition by Phil

IP Morris of Papastratos's cigarette manufacturing business

IP/03/1338 – 03/10/2003 – Commission authorises JV between SNPE, SAAB and Patria in the explosives and propellants sector

IP/03/1309 – 29/09/2003 – Commission clears Alcan takeover bid for Pechiney, subject to conditions

IP/03/1308 – 30/09/2003 – Commission clears Cementbouw acquisition of CRH and JV between CRH and CVC Capital Partners

IP/03/1273 – 19/09/2003 – Commission clears Trelleborg acquisition of Smiths's polymer sealing solutions business

IP/03/1259 – 17/09/2003 – Commission clears Vodafone acquisition of Singlepoint and Corpo rate 4U

IP/03/1246 – 15/09/2003 – EU/Japan: Commission welcomes new law allowing Japanese and EU lawyers to work in partnership

IP/03/1193 – 02/09/2003 – Commission clears acquisition of Instrumentarium by General Electric subject to conditions

General

IP/03/1679 – 09/12/2003 – Commission appoints Consumer Liaison Officer

IP/03/1587 – 24/11/2003 – Commissioner Monti launches competition dialogue with China

IP/03/1331 – 01/10/2003 – Commission hosts Vth International Cartel Workshop
## Cases covered in this issue

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