

EU and UK Antitrust/Competition Group London

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EU Competition

EU – Phase I merger notifications published in the Official Journal

Companies	Sector	Further Information
Alstom Holding/Alstom Hydro Holding	Provision of equipment and services for power generation, rail transport and hydropower plants.	Click here

Kraft Foods/Cadbury merger review The European Commission ("Commission") has extended its Phase I review of Kraft Foods' planned takeover of UK chocolate maker Cadbury by 10 working days, following commitments offered by the US firm. The new deadline for a Phase I decision is 6 January 2010, put back from 14 December 2009. [Click here](#) for more information.

Pharmaceutical sector: Commission dawn raids The Commission has confirmed that it has carried out surprise inspections at the premises of several companies active in the pharmaceutical industry in a number of Member States. The Commission said it has reason to believe that the provisions of the EC Treaty prohibiting restrictive business practices and/or the abuse of a dominant position may have been infringed. Teva Pharmaceutical said today that its London offices were the scene of inspections by the Commission and the Italian sales office of Danish pharmaceutical company H. Lundbeck said today that they had been dawn raided by the Commission in connection with the alleged abuse of a dominant position in the Italian market for antidepressant drugs. GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Sanofi-Aventis and Merck representatives said today that their premises had not been visited by Commission officials. [Click here](#) for more information.

Royalty rates: Commission accepts commitments from Rambus The Commission has adopted a decision that renders legally binding commitments offered by Rambus Inc that put a cap on its royalty rates for certain patents for "Dynamic Random Access Memory" chips (DRAMS). The Commission initially had concerns that Rambus may have infringed the competition rules on the abuse of a dominant market position by charging abusive royalties for the use of these patents. [Click here](#) for more information.

UK Competition

Fish Holdings denied extension of time to lodge appeal The Competition Appeal Tribunal (“CAT”) has refused to grant an extension of time to Fish Holdings Limited to lodge its appeal against the OFT decision imposing fines on 103 companies for bid-rigging in the construction sector. The last day for lodging the appeal was 23 November 2009, whereas Fish Holdings’ notice of appeal was received by the CAT on 26 November 2009. Fish Holdings argued that this had been due to an administrative error, whereby the notice of appeal was sent by post to the CAT’s old address. [Click here](#) for more information.

CC Issues Statement: Brightsolid /Friends Reunited The Competition Commission (“CC”) has today published an issues statement as part of its inquiry into the anticipated acquisition of Friends Reunited Holdings Limited (Friends Reunited) from ITV by Brightsolid Group Limited (Brightsolid). The issues statement identifies for all interested parties the specific questions and areas the CC inquiry is currently examining. [Click here](#) for more information.

Competition EU Member States

France: France Télécom fined €63 million The French Competition Authority has imposed a fine of €63 million on France Télécom and its subsidiary Orange Caraïbe for restricting competition on mobile and fixed telephony markets in French overseas territories Guadeloupe, Martinique and Guyana. [Click here](#) for more information.

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