

EU and UK Antitrust/Competition Group London

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UK Competition

Stagecoach Group plc / Eastbourne Buses Limited: The provisional findings has been published. According to the Competition Commission Stagecoach's purchase of two previously competing bus companies in Eastbourne will lead to a substantial lessening of competition

The OFT has published the full text of the decision regarding the anticipated acquisition by Tesco plc of three former Somerfield stores from the Co-operative Group Limited.

Shell and Exxon Mobil face a damages claim at the English High Court for their alleged involvement in a price-fixing cartel in the paraffin wax market.

Ofgem has called on the chief executives of the six main energy suppliers to explain their positions on pricing in the light of current lows in wholesale energy prices and growing anxiety among householders over winter energy bills.

Competition EU Member States

The Netherlands: The Dutch Competition Authority has imposed a fine of €468,000 (0.22% of the turnover in the Netherlands) on soft drinks manufacturer Refresco for providing incorrect and incomplete information in the notification of the Schiffers Food deal. The Competition Authority also raided the offices of eight fruit and vegetable companies suspected of anti-competitive behaviour.

Spain: The Competition Authority has fined a music collecting society €770,000 for abusing its dominant position by levying unreasonable charges on a broadcaster for the rights to use its artists' music videos.

Greece: The European Commission has accepted commitments made by Greece to ensure fair access to Greek lignite deposits. The commitments have been given to comply with a decision adopted on 5 March 2008 which found that Greece had infringed competition rules (Articles 82 and 86 of the EC Treaty) by maintaining rights giving the state-owned electricity incumbent Public Power Corporation privileged access to lignite.

Competition World

South Africa: Rooibos made an exception application to the Competition Tribunal, asking it to dismiss a case from the Competition Commission that it abused its dominant position.

Water

The European Commission has cleared the proposed purchase by Lyonnaise des Eaux of shares held by Veolia Eau-Compagnie Générale des Eaux in six subsidiaries owned jointly with Veolia Eau.

Insurance

PartnerRe lodges draft EC notification of Paris Re takeover. [Click here](#) for further information.

Energy

The European Commission is expected to receive a notification from Gazprom in the coming months to acquire a 50 percent interest in the Central European Gas Hub (CEGH) from current owner OMV. The deal is likely to raise competition concerns.¹

¹ Mlex 6 August 2009

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