

Exhibit A  
to  
**SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF JAMES N. PENROD IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSE TO  
MICROSOFT CORPORATION'S OBJECTIONS TO MAGISTRATE'S ORDER**

# Exhibit A

## Part 1 of 3

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**SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF JAMES N. PENROD IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSE TO  
MICROSOFT CORPORATION'S OBJECTIONS TO MAGISTRATE'S ORDER**



Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 6, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that this document filed through the ECF system will be sent electronically to the registered participants as identified on the Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) and paper copies will be sent to those indicated as non-registered participants on April 6, 2006.

/s/ Michelle D. Miller



establishing the European Community (see consolidated version in OJ C 325, 24.12.2002, p. 33.)

The main institutional provisions of this Treaty may be summarized as follows.

The Member States have agreed to transfer a large part of their sovereign powers in many areas to the European Community. The competences transferred are exercised by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers acting as co-legislator on the basis of proposals submitted by the European Commission. The European Commission, which is one of the institutions of the European Community, is its basic executive and administrative organ. Among its functions is to ensure the effective enforcement of and compliance with the provisions of the Treaty, a role which is referred to as the “guardian of the Treaty” (see Article 211 of the EC Treaty). The Commission’s responsibilities within the organizational structure of the European Community extend to a wide range of subject areas. Functionally, the Commission’s powers include proposing legislation, managing and implementing European Union policies, budget and law enforcement. In a number of areas, the Commission has been granted powers to enforce directly the Treaty regulations and decisions promulgated pursuant to it.

Although it has no legal personality itself, which is vested with the European Community, the Commission is also entrusted with the task of representing the European Community on the international stage, including in contexts of litigation like in this case where the European Community’s interests are at stake or likely to be affected.

With regard in particular to competition law and policy, the Treaty conferred on the Commission substantial decision-making powers. Through the Directorate-General for Competition (hereinafter “DG Competition”), which is one the of the Commission’s internal

departments<sup>1</sup>, the Commission enforces the Treaty's provisions relating to competition law. These provisions include, in particular, Article 81 (relating to anti-competitive agreements, including cartels), Article 82 (relating to abuse of dominant position), Article 87 (relating to market-distorting state aid), and specific legislation regulating concentrations of undertakings with Community dimension (i.e. mergers).

**B. Microsoft's Application For Discovery Before The District Court.**

The European Commission has been informed that on March 3, 2006, Microsoft filed an *ex parte* application pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1782 in this Court requesting the Court to endorse a subpoena to Novell to produce documents. The Commission has also been informed that the Court issued an order on March 7, 2006, authorizing Microsoft to serve the subpoena and authorizing Novell to file a motion to quash. The Commission has further learned that the Court held a hearing on March 28, 2006 and provisionally ordered Novell to produce certain of the documents requested in Microsoft's subpoena. On March 30, 2006, pursuant to the Court's instruction, Novell and Microsoft agreed that the scope of Microsoft's subpoena to Novell would be modified to request the following:

“Novell shall produce all non-privileged documents in its possession, custody or control as of the date of service of the original subpoena on Novell, that constitute or summarize communications between Novell, the Commission, the Monitoring Trustee, OTR or any other third party known or believed by Novell to have been retained by the Commission, relating specifically to or referencing the subject matter of the SO, namely Microsoft's compliance or alleged failure to comply with its obligations under Articles 5(a) and (c) of the 2004 Decision to provide complete and accurate technical documentation embodying the Interoperability Information.”

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<sup>1</sup> DG Competition, as an internal department of the European Commission, has no power to act autonomously. The actions and law enforcement activities it undertakes are carried out under the prior authorization and on behalf of the European Commission, the Commission being the decision making organ of the European Community in areas of competition law.

The Commission also has been informed that the Court suspended issuing its provisional order of March 28, 2006 until April 6, 2006 to offer *inter alia* the Commission an opportunity to authoritatively present its position on Microsoft's (revised) discovery request.

The European Commission is grateful for this opportunity and, by the present Memorandum, would like to state its position authoritatively on Microsoft's discovery request and Novell's motion to quash.<sup>2</sup> The Commission believes that Microsoft's request raises very important issues and problems of law and policy, in particular as regards the enforcement of the rules on access to material in the Commission's file and rights of a defendant in the Commission's antitrust investigations.

## **II. FACTUAL AND LEGAL BACKGROUND**

### **A. The Framework Within Which The European Commission Carries Out Its Antitrust Investigations.**

The Commission's powers of enforcement in competition law are set out in Council Regulation 1/2003 (OJ No L 1, 4.1.2003, p. 1, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit B).<sup>3</sup> Regulation 1/2003 provides specific means for investigating suspected infringements of competition law, notably by issuing formal requests for information, taking oral statements, conducting on-site inspections, etc. Regulation 1/2003 is further implemented by Commission Regulation No. 773/2004, which sets out more precise rules governing certain procedural issues in competition law enforcement before the Commission.

It is well established in European Community law, in general, and competition law, in particular, that the rights of defense and the right to be heard of potentially affected entities and individuals are properly respected. As the European Court of Justice has held in its judgment in connection with Hoffman-La Roche Co. AG v. Commission, [1979] ECR 461: "*observance of*

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<sup>2</sup> A copy of the Authority issued by the Commission in this matter is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

<sup>3</sup> Council Regulation 1/200 replaced Council Regulation No. 17/62.

*the right to be heard is in all proceedings in which sanctions, in particular fines or penalty payments, may be imposed a fundamental principle of Community law which must be respected [...]”.*<sup>4</sup>

In line with this judgment and established case law of the European Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance, the Commission has put in place a number of procedural rules which guarantee the application of the principle of equality of arms, the protection of the rights of defense and due process in proceedings before the Commission. In particular, the rules on access to material in the Commission’s file were adopted for the purpose of enabling potentially any affected party to effectively exercise their rights of defense in Commission competition proceedings.

The “Commission’s file” in a competition law investigation (hereinafter also referred to as “the file”) consists of all documents, which have been obtained, produced and/or otherwise assembled by the Commission, during the investigation phase.<sup>5</sup> Access to the file is granted to adversely affected parties in proceedings before the Commission. The access is granted to all documents making up the Commission’s file, with the exception of internal documents, business secrets of other entities or other confidential information.<sup>6</sup> This access is granted after a Statement of Objections has been addressed to the party concerned setting out the Commission’s provisional findings from the investigation concerning a potential violation of the competition

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<sup>4</sup> Judgment of the Court of February 13, 1979 in Case 85/76, Hoffmann-La Roche & Co. AG v. Commission [1979] ECR 461, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit C.

<sup>5</sup> See Commission Notice on the rules for access to the Commission file in cases pursuant to Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty, and Articles 53, 54 and 57 of the EEA Agreement and Regulation (EC) No 139/2004, OJ 2005/C 325, 22.12.2005, p. 7 (“Notice on access to file”), at paragraph 7, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit D. This notice replaces an earlier but similar Commission Notice of 1997 on access to file; see OJ C 23 of 23.01.1997.

<sup>6</sup> “Internal documents” can be neither incriminating nor exculpatory. They do not constitute part of the evidence on which the Commission can rely in its assessment of a case. Thus, the parties will not be granted access to internal documents in the Commission file. Given their lack of evidential value, this restriction on access to internal documents does not prejudice the proper exercise of the parties’ right of defense. See Commission Notice on access to file, at paragraph 3.1.



rules.<sup>7</sup> Obviously there are certain limitations to access. The European Court of Justice has confirmed that "*the Commission is allowed to preclude from the administrative procedure evidence which has no relation to the allegations of fact and of law in the Statement of Objections and which therefore has no relevance to the investigation.*"<sup>8</sup>

Where an adversely affected party believes that the Commission's Services (i.e. in this case DG Competition) have erroneously or unlawfully withheld documents which are necessary for its defense, it may make a request to the Hearing Officer for a decision to enable it to have access to such documents. The Hearing Officer is responsible for safeguarding the rights of defense of the parties concerned in Commission proceedings.<sup>9</sup> The Hearing Officer, from administrative and functional points of view, is not an official of DG Competition. He or she is independent and directly attached to the office of the Commissioner in charge of competition policy.<sup>10</sup> The Hearing Officer reports to the competition Commissioner and ultimately the Commission.

The Hearing Officer, once properly seized of a request by an interested party, has the power to decide *inter alia* whether to grant or refuse access to the documents sought. A decision by the Hearing Officer to authorize or not to authorize the disclosure of certain documents to a party concerned is ultimately susceptible to judicial review by the Court of First Instance and the European Court of Justice. Similarly, an entity which considers that certain of the documents in the Commission's file contain its business secrets that should not be disclosed to the defendant seeking access, can appeal directly a decision by the Hearing Officer authorizing access to the

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<sup>7</sup> See Notice on access to file, *supra*, at paragraph 10.

<sup>8</sup> See Judgment of the Court of Justice of January 7, 2004, in Joined Cases C-204/00 P, C-205/00 P, C-211/00 P, C-213/00 P, C-217/00 P and C-219/00 P, Aalborg Portland, [2004] ECR, not yet reported, at paragraph 126, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit E.

<sup>9</sup> See Articles 1 and 8 of the Commission Decision of May 23, 2001 on the terms of reference of hearing officers in certain competition proceedings, OJ 2001 L 162, 19.6.2001, p. 21 (hereinafter "the Hearing Officer Decision"). Currently, there are two persons serving as Hearing Officers.

<sup>10</sup> See Article 2 of the Hearing Officer Decision, *supra*.

Court of First Instance and the European Court of Justice.<sup>11</sup>

Documents obtained through access to the file cannot be used for any purpose other than the proceedings applying competition law before the Commission or in proceedings before the European courts. This safeguard is contained in Article 15 of Regulation 773/2004, which stipulates that documents obtained through access to file may only be used “[...] *for the purposes of judicial and administrative procedures for the application of Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty.*” Furthermore, the European Commission Notice on access to file states that:

“Should the information be used for a different purpose, at any point in time, with the involvement of an outside counsel, the Commission may report the incident to the bar of that counsel, with a view to disciplinary action.”<sup>12</sup>

It is important to note that the Commission makes that obligation and the attending sanctions clear in a standard letter to all concerned and their counsel, when addressing to them a Statement of Objections and providing access to file.

**B. The Proceedings Against Microsoft Pursuant To Article 24 of Regulation 1/2003.**

On March 24, 2004, the Commission adopted a decision in Case COMP/C-3/37.792 – Microsoft (“the Decision”), in which it concluded that Microsoft had abused its dominant position in PC operating systems by:

- (i) refusing to provide interoperability information necessary for competitors to be able to effectively compete in the work group server operating system market, and
- (ii) tying its Windows Media Player with the Windows PC operating system.

The Commission imposed a fine of €497.196,304 on Microsoft and ordered it to bring the above-mentioned infringements of Article 82 EC to an end (Article 4 of the Decision). In particular, the Decision ordered Microsoft to supply interoperability information to interested

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<sup>11</sup> See Article 9 of the Hearing Officer Decision, *supra*.

<sup>12</sup> Commission Notice on access to file, p. 7.

undertakings on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions (“the interoperability remedy”, Article 5 of the Decision), and to offer a full-functioning version of its Windows PC operating system which does not incorporate Windows Media Player (“the tying remedy,” Article 6 of the Decision).

The Decision also provided for the establishment of a mechanism to monitor proper and accurate implementation, including the appointment of a Monitoring Trustee, whose role is to provide expert advice to the Commission on Microsoft’s compliance with the Decision. Microsoft was granted a deadline of 120 days to implement the interoperability remedy, and a deadline of 90 days to implement the tying remedy.

The obligations imposed by the Decision on Microsoft were suspended, pending the Court of First Instance’s consideration of Microsoft’s request for interim measures. Microsoft’s application for interim measures was, however, dismissed by the President of the Court of First Instance on December 22, 2004.<sup>13</sup> Consequently, Microsoft is under an obligation to comply with the Decision without delay.

On July 28, 2005, the Commission adopted another decision concerning the monitoring mechanism contained in Article 7 of the Decision.<sup>14</sup> The July 2005 decision sets out, in particular, the framework under which the Monitoring Trustee, mentioned earlier, will work. Subsequent to this July 2005 decision, the Commission invited Microsoft to put forward candidates for appointment as Monitoring Trustee. On October 4, 2005, on the basis of a short list of candidates submitted by Microsoft itself, the Commission appointed as Monitoring Trustee by common agreement with Microsoft, Professor Neil Barrett, a British computer science expert.

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<sup>13</sup> Order of the President of the Court of First Instance of December 22, 2004 in Case T-201/04 R, Microsoft v Commission, [2004] ECR, not yet reported.

<sup>14</sup> See doc. C (2005) 2988 final.

It is important to clarify at this stage that Article 24 of Council Regulation 1/2003 grants the Commission the power to impose on parties daily penalty payments, not exceeding 5% of the average daily turnover of the parties concerned in the preceding business year. The purpose is to compel parties to put an end to infringement of Article 81 or 82 EC Treaty following a prohibition decision taken against them by the Commission pursuant to Article 7 of Regulation 1/2003 (see Article 24(1)(a)).

In this context, the Commission, on the basis of an opinion on the Technical Documentation from the firm, OTR (“Organization and Technology Research”), which is an outside technical expert firm retained by the Commission to assist it on technical issues, decided to open proceedings against Microsoft in order to compel it to comply with its obligations stemming from the Decision. Consequently, on November 10, 2005, the Commission issued another decision against Microsoft, pursuant to Article 24(1) of Regulation 1/2003 (“the Art 24(1) Decision”), for failure to comply with the interoperability provisions of its March 2004 Decision. This November 2005 decision is the first step in a procedure leading to the imposition of daily penalty payments pursuant to Article 24 of Regulation 1/2003. By means of this November 2005 decision, a penalty payment of up to €2 million per day was imposed on Microsoft, from December 15, 2005, in the event that it is established that Microsoft did not to comply with Article 5(a) and (c) of the Decision, i.e. its obligations to: (i) supply complete and accurate interoperability information, and (ii) to make that information available on reasonable terms, as explained earlier.

In the meantime, the Monitoring Trustee had been appointed and assumed his advisory functions. In light of his reports on the state of the Technical Documentation provided to the Commission by Microsoft in response to the Art 24(1) Decision, the Commission, on December

21, 2005, adopted a Statement of Objections against Microsoft. This December 2005 Statement of Objections took the preliminary view that Microsoft had not yet complied with its obligation to supply complete and accurate interoperability information. A hearing was held at the request of Microsoft on March 30-31, 2006 on the objections raised in the December 2005 Statement concerning compliance with the interoperability remedy.

### III. ARGUMENT

In Intel Corp. v. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., 542 U.S. 241 (2004), the United States Supreme Court articulated the factors that a Court should consider when it rules on an application pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1782(a). According to the Supreme Court, a District Court may *inter alia* take into account: “*the receptivity of the foreign government or the court or agency abroad to U.S. federal-court assistance*,” and also “*whether the § 1782(a) request conceals an attempt to circumvent foreign proof-gathering restrictions or other policies of a foreign country or the United States.*” (*Id.* at 264) (emphases added).

The Commission respectfully submits that, in this case, it is not receptive to U.S. federal-court assistance for essentially two reasons: (1) the Commission does not require assistance from the United States federal courts under 28 U.S.C. § 1782(a) because the Commission has the power to lawfully obtain from Novell all documents relevant to its investigation; and (2) Microsoft’s discovery request under 28 U.S.C. § 1782(a) is seen rather as an attempt to circumvent established rules on access to file in proceedings before the Commission.

#### A. **There Is No Need Here For United States Federal Court Assistance.**

It should first be noted that, contrary to what is suggested in the Court’s preliminary order of March 28, 2006, the Commission has the legal power, under Article 18 of Council Regulation No 1/2003, to “*require undertakings and associations of undertakings to provide all necessary information*” whether or not they are the target of an investigation or suspected of an

infringement of the competition rules. Indeed, the Commission has such powers and exercises them very frequently. If the parties or third parties do not provide the requested information, the Commission can order and has many times in the past ordered production and imposed heavy fines, under Article 23 of Regulation 1/2003 (and Article 15 of the preceding Regulation 17/62), in order to induce compliance.

The Commission has made use of its powers to gather information and obtained from Novell the information which it deemed relevant in the present proceedings. More precisely, Novell was one of the companies which evaluated the technical documentation provided by Microsoft in regard to the interoperability remedy. Following this first evaluation, the Commission addressed a request for information, pursuant to Article 18 of Regulation No. 1/2003, to Novell on October 4, 2005. Novell responded to this request on October 13, 2005. The information gathered by means of this request was relied upon in the December 21, 2005 Statement of Objections addressed to Microsoft.<sup>15</sup>

This information gathering power of the Commission, under Article 18 of Regulation No. 1/2003, does not and did not depend on Novell being a party to the Commission proceedings against Microsoft. Novell is in any event an “interested third party,” pursuant to Article 13 of Regulation No 773/2004, in the proceedings against Microsoft. Moreover, Novell, as an “interested third party,” was also heard at the oral hearing held at the request of Microsoft on March 30-31, 2006.

In sum, the Commission has all the power to request any information from Novell or any other third company at any time that is relevant to the proceedings in the Microsoft case. Therefore, the Commission authoritatively submits to the District Court that it does not need, in

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<sup>15</sup> See paragraph 22 of the Statement of Objections. For the precise formulation of the questions raised, see footnote 23 of the Statement of Objections.

the present case, judicial assistance from the United States federal courts under Section 1782(a). Indeed, the Commission has already exercised these powers in the present case to gather from Novell all the information it deemed necessary in the context of the relevant proceedings in the Microsoft case concerning the interoperability remedy.

**B. Ordering Discovery Would Circumvent The European Community Rules On Access To File.**

In the Commission's view, a discovery request under 28 U.S.C. §1782(a) relating to an ongoing investigation risks circumventing the established rules and procedures applicable to access to file in proceedings before the European Commission chiefly for the following reasons.

1. *Microsoft's rights of defense are adequately protected by the applicable European rules on access to file.*

The Commission submits that Microsoft's rights of defense, in relation to the objections raised in the December 2005 Statement of Objections for failure to comply with the interoperability remedy, are adequately protected by the existing rules on access to file that are routinely applicable to all parties subject to such competition law proceedings before the European Commission.

Indeed, once it received the above-mentioned Statement of Objections, Microsoft requested access to the file and to the documents identified in the annex to the Statement of Objections, including all the documents exchanged between the Commission services and the Monitoring Trustee and all the documents exchanged between the Commission's Services and the company OTR in relation to all matters covered by the Statement of Objections.<sup>16</sup> By letter of January 30, 2006, Microsoft requested further access to the Commission's file pertaining to the correspondence between the Commission, on the one hand, and third parties such as the companies Sun, Oracle, IBM and Novell, on the other hand. Furthermore, Microsoft requested

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<sup>16</sup> E-mail from Jean-Yves Art, Microsoft's Director of Competition EMEA, of December 23, 2005.

access to file reflecting the discussions that have taken place between third parties, in particular Sun, IBM and OTR, and the Monitoring Trustee.<sup>17</sup>

Following Microsoft's request, the Hearing Officer took the position that the correspondence between the Commissions' services, on the one hand, and the Monitoring Trustee and OTR, on the other hand, constitute internal documents which, according to the applicable rules and provisions explained earlier, are in principle not accessible to Microsoft.<sup>18</sup> By contrast, after confidentiality waivers had been provided by those undertakings participating as third parties, Microsoft was given timely access to communications between the Commission and those third parties that related to the issues raised in the Statement of Objections of December 21, 2005.<sup>19</sup>

The Commission has, therefore, given to Microsoft access to all third party documentation in its possession, to which Microsoft is lawfully entitled. However, by letter of March 2, 2006, Microsoft specifically requested to have further access to "*any material submitted by its adversaries to the Trustee and OTR.*"<sup>20</sup>

In order to verify whether this further request by Microsoft was well-founded, the Commission asked the company OTR and the Monitoring Trustee to disclose and transmit to the Commission any documents they had received directly, without the Commission's knowledge, from third parties or from Microsoft in carrying out their respective duties, as well as any minutes they may have taken as regards communications with third parties or with Microsoft.

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<sup>17</sup> Letter from Microsoft's counsel Ian Forrester to the Hearing Officer of January 30, 2005.

<sup>18</sup> Correspondence between the Commission and the experts is only rendered accessible if it is necessary for understanding the methodology applied in the experts' reports or for testing their technical correctness. Accordingly, the Hearing Officer took the view that one piece of this correspondence was indispensable for Microsoft's defense and ensured that access was effectively granted to it.

<sup>19</sup> Letter from the Hearing Officer to Ian Forrester of February 8, 2006, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit F.

<sup>20</sup> Letter from Georg Berrisch, Microsoft's counsel, of March 2, 2006, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit G.



In line with well established case law,<sup>21</sup> the Commission, upon receipt of these documents from the Monitoring Trustee, verified whether third parties could lawfully claim confidentiality on any of the documents exchanged with the Trustee. After having examined the confidentiality claims of third parties, the Commission transmitted to Microsoft, by letter of March 28, 2006, all the communications between third parties and the Monitoring Trustee for which no reasonable confidentiality claims were made by the parties and which related to the objections raised in the December 2005 Statement of Objections.<sup>22</sup>

As regards communications between the company OTR and third parties, OTR has confirmed in writing to the Commission that no such communications relating to the Statement of Objections have occurred which are not documented in the Commission's file and to which Microsoft has therefore not already been granted access. Therefore, it came as a surprise to the Commission that Microsoft had decided to turn to a United States federal court for assistance under 28 U.S.C §1782 in order to gain access to the file, which it had one day earlier (i.e. on March 2, 2006) sought to obtain from the Commission and with respect to which a proceeding was pending before the Hearing Officer.<sup>23</sup>

The Commission submits that Microsoft's rights of defense in relation to the objections raised in the December 2005 Statement of Objections have been and are sufficiently and adequately protected. If Microsoft considers that its rights of defense or any other right is being violated or not respected in this case, it can bring the matter before the Court of First Instance for

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<sup>21</sup> See Judgment of the Court of June 24, 1986 in Case 53/85, AKZO Chemie BV and AKZO Chemie UK Ltd v Commission [1986] ECR 1965, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit H.

<sup>22</sup> Letter of March 28, 2006 from Cecilio Madero, Head of Unit, DG Competition, to Georg Berrisch, Microsoft's counsel, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit I.

<sup>23</sup> In fact, at the time of writing the present intervention, the Hearing Officer has already replied to almost all of Microsoft's requests for access to file. What the Hearing Officer is still cross-checking is whether some of the correspondence between the Commission and the experts is necessary for Microsoft's defense and needs therefore to be rendered accessible. Moreover, Microsoft has not exhausted the possibility it has to turn again to the Hearing Officer with regard to the decision he has taken that certain documents submitted by third parties are confidential and unrelated to the case, if it considers it appropriate and necessary for its defense.

judicial review. Therefore, Microsoft's application under Section 1782(a) does not appear to be a genuine and reasonable request, but rather an attempt to circumvent the rules on access to file which are routinely applicable to all parties in proceedings of this nature before the Commission.

2. *There is a serious risk that granting the discovery requests to Microsoft under 28 U.S.C. §1782(a) relating to an ongoing antitrust investigation is affirmatively harmful to the Commission's sovereign interests.*

The Commission further submits that the discovery requests made by Microsoft under 28 U.S.C. §1782(a) from other participants in the Commission's proceedings, if granted, would seriously compromise the Commission's powers of investigation and competition law enforcement.

First, the Commission submits that there is a potential risk of subversion of the regulatory limits on an antitrust defendant's access to file containing information which the Commission gathers in its investigation. Those limits are lawfully imposed by the European Community, in the exercise of its sovereign regulatory powers in its territory and pursuant to the public interest. Indeed, as a general rule, the Commission is bound by an obligation of confidentiality which exists under the EC Treaty,<sup>24</sup> and which applies *inter alia* to protect confidential information and business secrets obtained from entities and individuals under its information-gathering powers. As a result, there are certain elements of the Commission's files (as explained, internal documents, commercial information and business secrets) to which a defendant is denied access, typically by way of appropriate redaction.<sup>25</sup> Should defendants in antitrust investigations before the Commission be granted discovery requests under 28 U.S.C. §1782(a), there would be a serious risk that the confidentiality limitations resulting from the rules on access to file would not be fully respected, for example where the relevant United States rules concerning confidential or

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<sup>24</sup> See the Treaty Establishing the European Community, Article 287.

<sup>25</sup> See Sections IV.B. and C., paragraphs 39-49, of the Commission's Notice on access to file, *supra*.

otherwise privileged documents differ from those applicable in the European Community. The careful balance to be carried out on the basis of the facts of each individual proceeding between the defendant's right to access to file and the information provider's right to confidentiality could be seriously jeopardized. In the same vein, the protection space for internal Commission deliberations, contributing to the quality of the decision making, could be jeopardized should internal Commission documents be disclosed to parties through collateral proceedings in the United States courts.

Second, the rules governing the conduct of competition law proceedings before the Commission impose restrictions on the purposes for which the documents obtained through access to file can be used. As explained, Article 15 of Commission Regulation 773/2004 stipulates that documents obtained through access to file may only be used "*[...] for the purposes of judicial and administrative procedures for the application of Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty.*" Furthermore, the Commission's Notice on access to file states that: "*Should the information be used for a different purpose, at any point in time, with the involvement of an outside counsel, the Commission may report the incident to the bar of that counsel, with a view to disciplinary action.*"<sup>26</sup> As already explained, the objective of these provisions is to sanction unlawful use of the information obtained, in view of the public interest (efficient law enforcement) and the substantial economic interests at stake. Therefore, the Commission submits that there is a serious risk that the documents, which are subject to a discovery request under 28 U.S.C. §1782(a), may not be protected at all or not protected to the same extent by the rules applicable in other jurisdictions. This is another likely scenario in which the specific rules on

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<sup>26</sup> Commission Notice on the rules for access to the Commission file in cases pursuant to Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty, Articles 53,54 and 57 of the EEA Agreement and Council Regulation (EC) No139/2004, in OJ 2005/C 325, 22.12.2005, p. 7.

access to file that the Commission has lawfully placed on defendants subject to competition law enforcement in the European Community could be circumvented.<sup>27</sup>

Third, a Commission decision granting or refusing access to file to a defendant in a competition law case is subject to judicial control by the Court of First Instance and the European Court of Justice. These courts have emphasized that the right to access to file is “a corollary of the principle of respect for the rights of the defense.”<sup>28</sup> However, these courts have also emphasized that not every failure by the Commission to disclose a document to a defendant constitutes a breach of the rights of defense.<sup>29</sup> It is for the Community judiciary to finally establish whether a “document which was not disclosed might have influenced the course of the proceedings and the content of the Commission’s decision,”<sup>30</sup> which could lead to the annulment of the Commission’s decision. Therefore, a discovery order by a United States federal court granting access to documents to which the Commission has not granted access would risk interfering seriously with the above-mentioned review by the European Courts concerning the rights of defense and, thus, is likely to circumvent well-established domestic rules on judicial review in the European Community.

### C. Conclusion

In conclusion, the European Commission submits that if the Court were to deny Novell’s Motion to Quash and permit the discovery requested by Microsoft, there would be a serious risk

<sup>27</sup> The list of examples contained in this intervention is not exhaustive as to the potential areas where differences between the European Community’s and the United States’ legal systems are likely to occur. Another example is that the Commission and companies established in the European Community are under obligations as to the treatment of so-called “personal data” contained in documents and information exchanged. See, respectively, Regulation (EC) No. 45/2001 of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1), and Directive 95/46 on the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Processing of Personal Data (OJ L 281, 23.11.95, p.31).

<sup>28</sup> See Judgment of the Court of January 7, 2004 in Joined Cases C-204/00 P, C-205/00 P, C-211/00 P, C-213/00 P, C-217/00 P and C-219/00 P, Aalborg Portland A/S, [2004] ECR, not yet reported, at paragraph 68.

<sup>29</sup> See Judgment of the Court of January 7, 2004 in Joined Cases C-204/00 P, C-205/00 P, C-211/00 P, C-213/00 P, C-217/00 P and C-219/00 P, Aalborg Portland A/S, [2004] ECR, not yet reported, at paragraphs 72 and 74, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit E.

<sup>30</sup> See Judgment of the Court of January 7, 2004 in Joined Cases C-204/00 P, C-205/00 P, C-211/00 P, C-213/00 P, C-217/00 P and C-219/00 P, Aalborg Portland A/S, [2004] ECR, not yet reported, at paragraph 76.

of contravening principles of international comity by interfering with law enforcement and sovereign policy choices in the handling of competition law proceedings in the European Community. The European Commission considers that it already has all the necessary powers to obtain the information and documents relevant for its competition law enforcement and it has, in fact, exercised its powers in this case. The European Commission also considers that Microsoft's rights of defense are adequately protected by the rules applicable in the European Community.

The European Commission, therefore, respectfully submits that it is not receptive to the judicial assistance requested by Microsoft under 28 U.S.C. § 1782(a) because the discovery request in this case is unjustified, unduly intrusive and poses a serious risk of circumventing the applicable rules on access to file in competition law investigations in the European Community.

Respectfully submitted,

Commission of the European Communities  
By its Attorneys,

Of Counsel:

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/s/ Michelle D. Miller  
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Theofanis Christoforou  
Legal Advisor of the Legal Service  
of the Commission of the  
European Communities

Per Hellstrom  
Member of the Legal Service  
of the Commission of the  
European Communities

Dated: April 5, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that this document filed through the ECF system will be sent electronically to the registered participants as identified on the Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) and paper copies will be sent to those indicated as non-registered participants on April 6, 2006.

/s/ Michelle D. Miller

# **EXHIBIT A**



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels

- 5 AVR. 2006

**AUTHORITY**

The Commission of the European Community, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049, Brussels, has appointed,

**Mr. Theofanis CHRISTOFOROU**  
Legal Adviser of its Legal Service

**Mr. Per HELLSTROM**  
Member of its Legal Service

Assisted by: **Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP**  
2445 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037, USA

to represent it before the relevant US Courts, governmental department, ministry, bureau, office, institution, organization or any other body  
in cases

*In re: Application of Microsoft Corporation (against Novell)* before the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts;

*In re: Application of Microsoft Corporation (against IBM)* before the US District Court for the Southern District of New York; and

*In re: Application of Microsoft Corporation (against Oracle and Sun)* before the US District Court for Northern District of California

For the Commission

  
Michel PETITE

Director-General of  
the Legal Service





EUROPEAN COMMISSION

LEGAL SERVICE

Brussels, 5 April 2006  
TC D(2006) 4040/TC/aa

*Opinion of the Legal Service\**

**Subject:** Brief of the European Commission appearing as amicus curiae in discovery requests by Microsoft before US district courts

**Ref. :** Urgent written procedure E/636/2006 – C(2006)1530

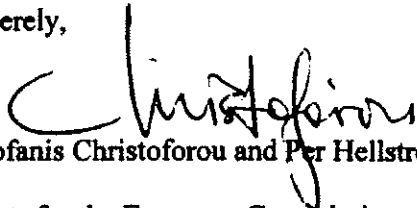
Dear Michelle and Douglas,

As agreed, please find attached the draft of our contribution for the amicus curiae. We would appreciate it if you could finalise the text and submit it to the District Court judge in the Novell case in Boston, Massachusetts, before the deadline of 6 April 2006.

We would be happy to discuss any question you may have on the draft etc. before its filing with the court.

We appreciate very much your assistance in this urgent procedure.

Sincerely,



Theofanis Christoforou and Per Hellstrom

Agents for the European Commission

Encl. Amicus Curiae brief and Authority

**Ms. Michelle Miller and Mr. Douglas Melamed**

**Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP**

**2445 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20037, USA**

Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11. Office: BERL 03/363. Telephone: direct line (32-2) 295.01.88. Fax: (32-2) 296.59.88.

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\* Commission document protected pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

# **EXHIBIT B**

## I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

**COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1/2003  
of 16 December 2002**

**on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty  
(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 83 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission <sup>(1)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament <sup>(2)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee <sup>(3)</sup>,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to establish a system which ensures that competition in the common market is not distorted, Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty must be applied effectively and uniformly in the Community. Council Regulation No 17 of 6 February 1962, First Regulation implementing Articles 81 and 82 <sup>(4)</sup> of the Treaty <sup>(5)</sup>, has allowed a Community competition policy to develop that has helped to disseminate a competition culture within the Community. In the light of experience, however, that Regulation should now be replaced by legislation designed to meet the challenges of an integrated market and a future enlargement of the Community.
- (2) In particular, there is a need to rethink the arrangements for applying the exception from the prohibition on agreements, which restrict competition, laid down in Article 81(3) of the Treaty. Under Article 83(2)(b) of the Treaty, account must be taken in this regard of the need to ensure effective supervision, on the one hand, and to simplify administration to the greatest possible extent, on the other.
- (3) The centralised scheme set up by Regulation No 17 no longer secures a balance between those two objectives. It hampers application of the Community competition rules by the courts and competition authorities of the Member States, and the system of notification it involves prevents the Commission from concentrating its resources on curbing the most serious infringements. It also imposes considerable costs on undertakings.
- (4) The present system should therefore be replaced by a directly applicable exception system in which the competition authorities and courts of the Member States have the power to apply not only Article 81(1) and Article 82 of the Treaty, which have direct applicability by virtue of the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, but also Article 81(3) of the Treaty.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ C 365 E, 19.12.2000, p. 284.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ C 72 E, 21.3.2002, p. 305.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ C 155, 29.5.2001, p. 73.

<sup>(4)</sup> The title of Regulation No 17 has been adjusted to take account of the renumbering of the Articles of the EC Treaty, in accordance with Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam; the original reference was to Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty.

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ L 13, 21.2.1962, p. 204/62. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1216/1999 (OJ L 148, 15.6.1999, p. 5).

- (5) In order to ensure an effective enforcement of the Community competition rules and at the same time the respect of fundamental rights of defence, this Regulation should regulate the burden of proof under Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty. It should be for the party or the authority alleging an infringement of Article 81(1) and Article 82 of the Treaty to prove the existence thereof to the required legal standard. It should be for the undertaking or association of undertakings invoking the benefit of a defence against a finding of an infringement to demonstrate to the required legal standard that the conditions for applying such defence are satisfied. This Regulation affects neither national rules on the standard of proof nor obligations of competition authorities and courts of the Member States to ascertain the relevant facts of a case, provided that such rules and obligations are compatible with general principles of Community law.
- (6) In order to ensure that the Community competition rules are applied effectively, the competition authorities of the Member States should be associated more closely with their application. To this end, they should be empowered to apply Community law.
- (7) National courts have an essential part to play in applying the Community competition rules. When deciding disputes between private individuals, they protect the subjective rights under Community law, for example by awarding damages to the victims of infringements. The role of the national courts here complements that of the competition authorities of the Member States. They should therefore be allowed to apply Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty in full.
- (8) In order to ensure the effective enforcement of the Community competition rules and the proper functioning of the cooperation mechanisms contained in this Regulation, it is necessary to oblige the competition authorities and courts of the Member States to also apply Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty where they apply national competition law to agreements and practices which may affect trade between Member States. In order to create a level playing field for agreements, decisions by associations of undertakings and concerted practices within the internal market, it is also necessary to determine pursuant to Article 83(2)(e) of the Treaty the relationship between national laws and Community competition law. To that effect it is necessary to provide that the application of national competition laws to agreements, decisions or concerted practices within the meaning of Article 81(1) of the Treaty may not lead to the prohibition of such agreements, decisions and concerted practices if they are not also prohibited under Community competition law. The notions of agreements, decisions and concerted practices are autonomous concepts of Community competition law covering the coordination of behaviour of undertakings on the market as interpreted by the Community Courts. Member States should not under this Regulation be precluded from adopting and applying on their territory stricter national competition laws which prohibit or impose sanctions on unilateral conduct engaged in by undertakings. These stricter national laws may include provisions which prohibit or impose sanctions on abusive behaviour toward economically dependent undertakings. Furthermore, this Regulation does not apply to national laws which impose criminal sanctions on natural persons except to the extent that such sanctions are the means whereby competition rules applying to undertakings are enforced.
- (9) Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty have as their objective the protection of competition on the market. This Regulation, which is adopted for the implementation of these Treaty provisions, does not preclude Member States from implementing on their territory national legislation, which protects other legitimate interests provided that such legislation is compatible with general principles and other provisions of Community law. In so far as such national legislation pursues predominantly an objective different from that of protecting competition on the market, the competition authorities and courts of the Member States may apply such legislation on their territory. Accordingly, Member States may under this Regulation implement on their territory national legislation that prohibits or imposes sanctions on acts of unfair trading practice, be they unilateral or contractual. Such legislation pursues a specific objective, irrespective of the actual or presumed effects of such acts on competition on the market. This is particularly the case of legislation which prohibits undertakings from imposing on their trading partners, obtaining or attempting to obtain from them terms and conditions that are unjustified, disproportionate or without consideration.

- (10) Regulations such as 19/65/EEC <sup>(1)</sup>, (EEC) No 2821/71 <sup>(2)</sup>, (EEC) No 3976/87 <sup>(3)</sup>, (EEC) No 1534/91 <sup>(4)</sup>, or (EEC) No 479/92 <sup>(5)</sup> empower the Commission to apply Article 81(3) of the Treaty by Regulation to certain categories of agreements, decisions by associations of undertakings and concerted practices. In the areas defined by such Regulations, the Commission has adopted and may continue to adopt so called 'block' exemption Regulations by which it declares Article 81(1) of the Treaty inapplicable to categories of agreements, decisions and concerted practices. Where agreements, decisions and concerted practices to which such Regulations apply nonetheless have effects that are incompatible with Article 81(3) of the Treaty, the Commission and the competition authorities of the Member States should have the power to withdraw in a particular case the benefit of the block exemption Regulation.
- (11) For it to ensure that the provisions of the Treaty are applied, the Commission should be able to address decisions to undertakings or associations of undertakings for the purpose of bringing to an end infringements of Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty. Provided there is a legitimate interest in doing so, the Commission should also be able to adopt decisions which find that an infringement has been committed in the past even if it does not impose a fine. This Regulation should also make explicit provision for the Commission's power to adopt decisions ordering interim measures, which has been acknowledged by the Court of Justice.
- (12) This Regulation should make explicit provision for the Commission's power to impose any remedy, whether behavioural or structural, which is necessary to bring the infringement effectively to an end, having regard to the principle of proportionality. Structural remedies should only be imposed either where there is no equally effective behavioural remedy or where any equally effective behavioural remedy would be more burdensome for the undertaking concerned than the structural remedy. Changes to the structure of an undertaking as it existed before the infringement was committed would only be proportionate where there is a substantial risk of a lasting or repeated infringement that derives from the very structure of the undertaking.
- (13) Where, in the course of proceedings which might lead to an agreement or practice being prohibited, undertakings offer the Commission commitments such as to meet its concerns, the Commission should be able to adopt decisions which make those commitments binding on the undertakings concerned. Commitment decisions should find that there are no longer grounds for action by the Commission without concluding whether or not there has been or still is an infringement. Commitment decisions are without prejudice to the powers of competition authorities and courts of the Member States to make such a finding and decide upon the case. Commitment decisions are not appropriate in cases where the Commission intends to impose a fine.

<sup>(1)</sup> Council Regulation No 19/65/EEC of 2 March 1965 on the application of Article 81(3) (The titles of the Regulations have been adjusted to take account of the renumbering of the Articles of the EC Treaty, in accordance with Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam; the original reference was to Article 85(3) of the Treaty) of the Treaty to certain categories of agreements and concerted practices (OJ 36, 6.3.1965, p. 533). Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1215/1999 (OJ L 148, 15.6.1999, p. 1).

<sup>(2)</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No 2821/71 of 20 December 1971 on the application of Article 81(3) (The titles of the Regulations have been adjusted to take account of the renumbering of the Articles of the EC Treaty, in accordance with Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam; the original reference was to Article 85(3) of the Treaty) of the Treaty to categories of agreements, decisions and concerted practices (OJ L 285, 29.12.1971, p. 46). Regulation as last amended by the Act of Accession of 1994.

<sup>(3)</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No 3976/87 of 14 December 1987 on the application of Article 81(3) (The titles of the Regulations have been adjusted to take account of the renumbering of the Articles of the EC Treaty, in accordance with Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam; the original reference was to Article 85(3) of the Treaty) of the Treaty to certain categories of agreements and concerted practices in the air transport sector (OJ L 374, 31.12.1987, p. 9). Regulation as last amended by the Act of Accession of 1994.

<sup>(4)</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No 1534/91 of 31 May 1991 on the application of Article 81(3) (The titles of the Regulations have been adjusted to take account of the renumbering of the Articles of the EC Treaty, in accordance with Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam; the original reference was to Article 85(3) of the Treaty) of the Treaty to certain categories of agreements, decisions and concerted practices in the insurance sector (OJ L 143, 7.6.1991, p. 1).

<sup>(5)</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No 479/92 of 25 February 1992 on the application of Article 81(3) (The titles of the Regulations have been adjusted to take account of the renumbering of the Articles of the EC Treaty, in accordance with Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam; the original reference was to Article 85(3) of the Treaty) of the Treaty to certain categories of agreements, decisions and concerted practices between liner shipping companies (Consortia) (OJ L 55, 29.2.1992, p. 3). Regulation amended by the Act of Accession of 1994.

- (14) In exceptional cases where the public interest of the Community so requires, it may also be expedient for the Commission to adopt a decision of a declaratory nature finding that the prohibition in Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty does not apply, with a view to clarifying the law and ensuring its consistent application throughout the Community, in particular with regard to new types of agreements or practices that have not been settled in the existing case-law and administrative practice.
- (15) The Commission and the competition authorities of the Member States should form together a network of public authorities applying the Community competition rules in close cooperation. For that purpose it is necessary to set up arrangements for information and consultation. Further modalities for the cooperation within the network will be laid down and revised by the Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States.
- (16) Notwithstanding any national provision to the contrary, the exchange of information and the use of such information in evidence should be allowed between the members of the network even where the information is confidential. This information may be used for the application of Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty as well as for the parallel application of national competition law, provided that the latter application relates to the same case and does not lead to a different outcome. When the information exchanged is used by the receiving authority to impose sanctions on undertakings, there should be no other limit to the use of the information than the obligation to use it for the purpose for which it was collected given the fact that the sanctions imposed on undertakings are of the same type in all systems. The rights of defence enjoyed by undertakings in the various systems can be considered as sufficiently equivalent. However, as regards natural persons, they may be subject to substantially different types of sanctions across the various systems. Where that is the case, it is necessary to ensure that information can only be used if it has been collected in a way which respects the same level of protection of the rights of defence of natural persons as provided for under the national rules of the receiving authority.
- (17) If the competition rules are to be applied consistently and, at the same time, the network is to be managed in the best possible way, it is essential to retain the rule that the competition authorities of the Member States are automatically relieved of their competence if the Commission initiates its own proceedings. Where a competition authority of a Member State is already acting on a case and the Commission intends to initiate proceedings, it should endeavour to do so as soon as possible. Before initiating proceedings, the Commission should consult the national authority concerned.
- (18) To ensure that cases are dealt with by the most appropriate authorities within the network, a general provision should be laid down allowing a competition authority to suspend or close a case on the ground that another authority is dealing with it or has already dealt with it, the objective being that each case should be handled by a single authority. This provision should not prevent the Commission from rejecting a complaint for lack of Community interest, as the case-law of the Court of Justice has acknowledged it may do, even if no other competition authority has indicated its intention of dealing with the case.
- (19) The Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions set up by Regulation No 17 has functioned in a very satisfactory manner. It will fit well into the new system of decentralised application. It is necessary, therefore, to build upon the rules laid down by Regulation No 17, while improving the effectiveness of the organisational arrangements. To this end, it would be expedient to allow opinions to be delivered by written procedure. The Advisory Committee should also be able to act as a forum for discussing cases that are being handled by the competition authorities of the Member States, so as to help safeguard the consistent application of the Community competition rules.
- (20) The Advisory Committee should be composed of representatives of the competition authorities of the Member States. For meetings in which general issues are being discussed, Member States should be able to appoint an additional representative. This is without prejudice to members of the Committee being assisted by other experts from the Member States.



- (21) Consistency in the application of the competition rules also requires that arrangements be established for cooperation between the courts of the Member States and the Commission. This is relevant for all courts of the Member States that apply Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty, whether applying these rules in lawsuits between private parties, acting as public enforcers or as review courts. In particular, national courts should be able to ask the Commission for information or for its opinion on points concerning the application of Community competition law. The Commission and the competition authorities of the Member States should also be able to submit written or oral observations to courts called upon to apply Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty. These observations should be submitted within the framework of national procedural rules and practices including those safeguarding the rights of the parties. Steps should therefore be taken to ensure that the Commission and the competition authorities of the Member States are kept sufficiently well informed of proceedings before national courts.
- (22) In order to ensure compliance with the principles of legal certainty and the uniform application of the Community competition rules in a system of parallel powers, conflicting decisions must be avoided. It is therefore necessary to clarify, in accordance with the case-law of the Court of Justice, the effects of Commission decisions and proceedings on courts and competition authorities of the Member States. Commitment decisions adopted by the Commission do not affect the power of the courts and the competition authorities of the Member States to apply Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty.
- (23) The Commission should be empowered throughout the Community to require such information to be supplied as is necessary to detect any agreement, decision or concerted practice prohibited by Article 81 of the Treaty or any abuse of a dominant position prohibited by Article 82 of the Treaty. When complying with a decision of the Commission, undertakings cannot be forced to admit that they have committed an infringement, but they are in any event obliged to answer factual questions and to provide documents, even if this information may be used to establish against them or against another undertaking the existence of an infringement.
- (24) The Commission should also be empowered to undertake such inspections as are necessary to detect any agreement, decision or concerted practice prohibited by Article 81 of the Treaty or any abuse of a dominant position prohibited by Article 82 of the Treaty. The competition authorities of the Member States should cooperate actively in the exercise of these powers.
- (25) The detection of infringements of the competition rules is growing ever more difficult, and, in order to protect competition effectively, the Commission's powers of investigation need to be supplemented. The Commission should in particular be empowered to interview any persons who may be in possession of useful information and to record the statements made. In the course of an inspection, officials authorised by the Commission should be empowered to affix seals for the period of time necessary for the inspection. Seals should normally not be affixed for more than 72 hours. Officials authorised by the Commission should also be empowered to ask for any information relevant to the subject matter and purpose of the inspection.
- (26) Experience has shown that there are cases where business records are kept in the homes of directors or other people working for an undertaking. In order to safeguard the effectiveness of inspections, therefore, officials and other persons authorised by the Commission should be empowered to enter any premises where business records may be kept, including private homes. However, the exercise of this latter power should be subject to the authorisation of the judicial authority.
- (27) Without prejudice to the case-law of the Court of Justice, it is useful to set out the scope of the control that the national judicial authority may carry out when it authorises, as foreseen by national law including as a precautionary measure, assistance from law enforcement authorities in order to overcome possible opposition on the part of the undertaking or the execution of the decision to carry out inspections in non-business premises. It results from the case-law that the national judicial authority may in particular ask the Commission for further information which it needs to carry out its control and in the absence of which it could refuse the authorisation. The case-law also confirms the competence of the national courts to control the application of national rules governing the implementation of coercive measures.

- (28) In order to help the competition authorities of the Member States to apply Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty effectively, it is expedient to enable them to assist one another by carrying out inspections and other fact-finding measures.
- (29) Compliance with Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty and the fulfilment of the obligations imposed on undertakings and associations of undertakings under this Regulation should be enforceable by means of fines and periodic penalty payments. To that end, appropriate levels of fine should also be laid down for infringements of the procedural rules.
- (30) In order to ensure effective recovery of fines imposed on associations of undertakings for infringements that they have committed, it is necessary to lay down the conditions on which the Commission may require payment of the fine from the members of the association where the association is not solvent. In doing so, the Commission should have regard to the relative size of the undertakings belonging to the association and in particular to the situation of small and medium-sized enterprises. Payment of the fine by one or several members of an association is without prejudice to rules of national law that provide for recovery of the amount paid from other members of the association.
- (31) The rules on periods of limitation for the imposition of fines and periodic penalty payments were laid down in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2988/74 <sup>(1)</sup>, which also concerns penalties in the field of transport. In a system of parallel powers, the acts, which may interrupt a limitation period, should include procedural steps taken independently by the competition authority of a Member State. To clarify the legal framework, Regulation (EEC) No 2988/74 should therefore be amended to prevent it applying to matters covered by this Regulation, and this Regulation should include provisions on periods of limitation.
- (32) The undertakings concerned should be accorded the right to be heard by the Commission, third parties whose interests may be affected by a decision should be given the opportunity of submitting their observations beforehand, and the decisions taken should be widely publicised. While ensuring the rights of defence of the undertakings concerned, in particular, the right of access to the file, it is essential that business secrets be protected. The confidentiality of information exchanged in the network should likewise be safeguarded.
- (33) Since all decisions taken by the Commission under this Regulation are subject to review by the Court of Justice in accordance with the Treaty, the Court of Justice should, in accordance with Article 229 thereof be given unlimited jurisdiction in respect of decisions by which the Commission imposes fines or periodic penalty payments.
- (34) The principles laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty, as they have been applied by Regulation No 17, have given a central role to the Community bodies. This central role should be retained, whilst associating the Member States more closely with the application of the Community competition rules. In accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve its objective, which is to allow the Community competition rules to be applied effectively.
- (35) In order to attain a proper enforcement of Community competition law, Member States should designate and empower authorities to apply Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty as public enforcers. They should be able to designate administrative as well as judicial authorities to carry out the various functions conferred upon competition authorities in this Regulation. This Regulation recognises the wide variation which exists in the public enforcement systems of Member States. The effects of Article 11(6) of this Regulation should apply to all competition authorities. As an exception to this general rule, where a prosecuting authority brings a case before a separate judicial

<sup>(1)</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No 2988/74 of 26 November 1974 concerning limitation periods in proceedings and the enforcement of sanctions under the rules of the European Economic Community relating to transport and competition (OJ L 319, 29.11.1974, p. 1).



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authority, Article 11(6) should apply to the prosecuting authority subject to the conditions in Article 35(4) of this Regulation. Where these conditions are not fulfilled, the general rule should apply. In any case, Article 11(6) should not apply to courts insofar as they are acting as review courts.

- (36) As the case-law has made it clear that the competition rules apply to transport, that sector should be made subject to the procedural provisions of this Regulation. Council Regulation No 141 of 26 November 1962 exempting transport from the application of Regulation No 17<sup>(1)</sup> should therefore be repealed and Regulations (EEC) No 1017/68<sup>(2)</sup>, (EEC) No 4056/86<sup>(3)</sup> and (EEC) No 3975/87<sup>(4)</sup> should be amended in order to delete the specific procedural provisions they contain.
- (37) This Regulation respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Accordingly, this Regulation should be interpreted and applied with respect to those rights and principles.
- (38) Legal certainty for undertakings operating under the Community competition rules contributes to the promotion of innovation and investment. Where cases give rise to genuine uncertainty because they present novel or unresolved questions for the application of these rules, individual undertakings may wish to seek informal guidance from the Commission. This Regulation is without prejudice to the ability of the Commission to issue such informal guidance.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### CHAPTER I

#### PRINCIPLES

##### Article 1

#### Application of Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty

1. Agreements, decisions and concerted practices caught by Article 81(1) of the Treaty which do not satisfy the conditions of Article 81(3) of the Treaty shall be prohibited, no prior decision to that effect being required.
2. Agreements, decisions and concerted practices caught by Article 81(1) of the Treaty which satisfy the conditions of Article 81(3) of the Treaty shall not be prohibited, no prior decision to that effect being required.
3. The abuse of a dominant position referred to in Article 82 of the Treaty shall be prohibited, no prior decision to that effect being required.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ 124, 28.11.1962, p. 2751/62; Regulation as last amended by Regulation No 1002/67/EEC (OJ 306, 16.12.1967, p. 1).

<sup>(2)</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No 1017/68 of 19 July 1968 applying rules of competition to transport by rail, road and inland waterway (OJ L 175, 23.7.1968, p. 1). Regulation as last amended by the Act of Accession of 1994.

<sup>(3)</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No 4056/86 of 22 December 1986 laying down detailed rules for the application of Articles 81 and 82 (The title of the Regulation has been adjusted to take account of the renumbering of the Articles of the EC Treaty, in accordance with Article 12 of the Treaty of Amsterdam; the original reference was to Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty) of the Treaty to maritime transport (OJ L 378, 31.12.1986, p. 4). Regulation as last amended by the Act of Accession of 1994.

<sup>(4)</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No 3975/87 of 14 December 1987 laying down the procedure for the application of the rules on competition to undertakings in the air transport sector (OJ L 374, 31.12.1987, p. 1). Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2410/92 (OJ L 240, 24.8.1992, p. 18).

*Article 2***Burden of proof**

In any national or Community proceedings for the application of Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty, the burden of proving an infringement of Article 81(1) or of Article 82 of the Treaty shall rest on the party or the authority alleging the infringement. The undertaking or association of undertakings claiming the benefit of Article 81(3) of the Treaty shall bear the burden of proving that the conditions of that paragraph are fulfilled.

*Article 3***Relationship between Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty and national competition laws**

1. Where the competition authorities of the Member States or national courts apply national competition law to agreements, decisions by associations of undertakings or concerted practices within the meaning of Article 81(1) of the Treaty which may affect trade between Member States within the meaning of that provision, they shall also apply Article 81 of the Treaty to such agreements, decisions or concerted practices. Where the competition authorities of the Member States or national courts apply national competition law to any abuse prohibited by Article 82 of the Treaty, they shall also apply Article 82 of the Treaty.

2. The application of national competition law may not lead to the prohibition of agreements, decisions by associations of undertakings or concerted practices which may affect trade between Member States but which do not restrict competition within the meaning of Article 81(1) of the Treaty, or which fulfil the conditions of Article 81(3) of the Treaty or which are covered by a Regulation for the application of Article 81(3) of the Treaty. Member States shall not under this Regulation be precluded from adopting and applying on their territory stricter national laws which prohibit or sanction unilateral conduct engaged in by undertakings.

3. Without prejudice to general principles and other provisions of Community law, paragraphs 1 and 2 do not apply when the competition authorities and the courts of the Member States apply national merger control laws nor do they preclude the application of provisions of national law that predominantly pursue an objective different from that pursued by Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty.

## CHAPTER II

## POWERS

*Article 4***Powers of the Commission**

For the purpose of applying Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty, the Commission shall have the powers provided for by this Regulation.

*Article 5***Powers of the competition authorities of the Member States**

The competition authorities of the Member States shall have the power to apply Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty in individual cases. For this purpose, acting on their own initiative or on a complaint, they may take the following decisions:

- requiring that an infringement be brought to an end,
- ordering interim measures,

- accepting commitments,
- imposing fines, periodic penalty payments or any other penalty provided for in their national law.

Where on the basis of the information in their possession the conditions for prohibition are not met they may likewise decide that there are no grounds for action on their part.

#### Article 6

#### Powers of the national courts

National courts shall have the power to apply Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty.

### CHAPTER III

#### COMMISSION DECISIONS

#### Article 7

#### Finding and termination of infringement

1. Where the Commission, acting on a complaint or on its own initiative, finds that there is an infringement of Article 81 or of Article 82 of the Treaty, it may by decision require the undertakings and associations of undertakings concerned to bring such infringement to an end. For this purpose, it may impose on them any behavioural or structural remedies which are proportionate to the infringement committed and necessary to bring the infringement effectively to an end. Structural remedies can only be imposed either where there is no equally effective behavioural remedy or where any equally effective behavioural remedy would be more burdensome for the undertaking concerned than the structural remedy. If the Commission has a legitimate interest in doing so, it may also find that an infringement has been committed in the past.

2. Those entitled to lodge a complaint for the purposes of paragraph 1 are natural or legal persons who can show a legitimate interest and Member States.

#### Article 8

#### Interim measures

1. In cases of urgency due to the risk of serious and irreparable damage to competition, the Commission, acting on its own initiative may by decision, on the basis of a *prima facie* finding of infringement, order interim measures.

2. A decision under paragraph 1 shall apply for a specified period of time and may be renewed in so far this is necessary and appropriate.

#### Article 9

#### Commitments

1. Where the Commission intends to adopt a decision requiring that an infringement be brought to an end and the undertakings concerned offer commitments to meet the concerns expressed to them by the Commission in its preliminary assessment, the Commission may by decision make those commitments binding on the undertakings. Such a decision may be adopted for a specified period and shall conclude that there are no longer grounds for action by the Commission.

2. The Commission may, upon request or on its own initiative, reopen the proceedings:
  - (a) where there has been a material change in any of the facts on which the decision was based;
  - (b) where the undertakings concerned act contrary to their commitments; or
  - (c) where the decision was based on incomplete, incorrect or misleading information provided by the parties.

#### Article 10

#### Finding of inapplicability

Where the Community public interest relating to the application of Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty so requires, the Commission, acting on its own initiative, may by decision find that Article 81 of the Treaty is not applicable to an agreement, a decision by an association of undertakings or a concerted practice, either because the conditions of Article 81(1) of the Treaty are not fulfilled, or because the conditions of Article 81(3) of the Treaty are satisfied.

The Commission may likewise make such a finding with reference to Article 82 of the Treaty.

#### CHAPTER IV

#### COOPERATION

#### Article 11

#### Cooperation between the Commission and the competition authorities of the Member States

1. The Commission and the competition authorities of the Member States shall apply the Community competition rules in close cooperation.
2. The Commission shall transmit to the competition authorities of the Member States copies of the most important documents it has collected with a view to applying Articles 7, 8, 9, 10 and Article 29(1). At the request of the competition authority of a Member State, the Commission shall provide it with a copy of other existing documents necessary for the assessment of the case.
3. The competition authorities of the Member States shall, when acting under Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty, inform the Commission in writing before or without delay after commencing the first formal investigative measure. This information may also be made available to the competition authorities of the other Member States.
4. No later than 30 days before the adoption of a decision requiring that an infringement be brought to an end, accepting commitments or withdrawing the benefit of a block exemption Regulation, the competition authorities of the Member States shall inform the Commission. To that effect, they shall provide the Commission with a summary of the case, the envisaged decision or, in the absence thereof, any other document indicating the proposed course of action. This information may also be made available to the competition authorities of the other Member States. At the request of the Commission, the acting competition authority shall make available to the Commission other documents it holds which are necessary for the assessment of the case. The information supplied to the Commission may be made available to the competition authorities of the other Member States. National competition authorities may also exchange between themselves information necessary for the assessment of a case that they are dealing with under Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty.
5. The competition authorities of the Member States may consult the Commission on any case involving the application of Community law.

6. The initiation by the Commission of proceedings for the adoption of a decision under Chapter III shall relieve the competition authorities of the Member States of their competence to apply Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty. If a competition authority of a Member State is already acting on a case, the Commission shall only initiate proceedings after consulting with that national competition authority.

#### Article 12

##### Exchange of information

1. For the purpose of applying Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty the Commission and the competition authorities of the Member States shall have the power to provide one another with and use in evidence any matter of fact or of law, including confidential information.

2. Information exchanged shall only be used in evidence for the purpose of applying Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty and in respect of the subject-matter for which it was collected by the transmitting authority. However, where national competition law is applied in the same case and in parallel to Community competition law and does not lead to a different outcome, information exchanged under this Article may also be used for the application of national competition law.

3. Information exchanged pursuant to paragraph 1 can only be used in evidence to impose sanctions on natural persons where:

- the law of the transmitting authority foresees sanctions of a similar kind in relation to an infringement of Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty or, in the absence thereof,
- the information has been collected in a way which respects the same level of protection of the rights of defence of natural persons as provided for under the national rules of the receiving authority. However, in this case, the information exchanged cannot be used by the receiving authority to impose custodial sanctions.

#### Article 13

##### Suspension or termination of proceedings

1. Where competition authorities of two or more Member States have received a complaint or are acting on their own initiative under Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty against the same agreement, decision of an association or practice, the fact that one authority is dealing with the case shall be sufficient grounds for the others to suspend the proceedings before them or to reject the complaint. The Commission may likewise reject a complaint on the ground that a competition authority of a Member State is dealing with the case.

2. Where a competition authority of a Member State or the Commission has received a complaint against an agreement, decision of an association or practice which has already been dealt with by another competition authority, it may reject it.

#### Article 14

##### Advisory Committee

1. The Commission shall consult an Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions prior to the taking of any decision under Articles 7, 8, 9, 10, 23, Article 24(2) and Article 29(1).

2. For the discussion of individual cases, the Advisory Committee shall be composed of representatives of the competition authorities of the Member States. For meetings in which issues other than individual cases are being discussed, an additional Member State representative competent in competition matters may be appointed. Representatives may, if unable to attend, be replaced by other representatives.

3. The consultation may take place at a meeting convened and chaired by the Commission, held not earlier than 14 days after dispatch of the notice convening it, together with a summary of the case, an indication of the most important documents and a preliminary draft decision. In respect of decisions pursuant to Article 8, the meeting may be held seven days after the dispatch of the operative part of a draft decision. Where the Commission dispatches a notice convening the meeting which gives a shorter period of notice than those specified above, the meeting may take place on the proposed date in the absence of an objection by any Member State. The Advisory Committee shall deliver a written opinion on the Commission's preliminary draft decision. It may deliver an opinion even if some members are absent and are not represented. At the request of one or several members, the positions stated in the opinion shall be reasoned.

4. Consultation may also take place by written procedure. However, if any Member State so requests, the Commission shall convene a meeting. In case of written procedure, the Commission shall determine a time-limit of not less than 14 days within which the Member States are to put forward their observations for circulation to all other Member States. In case of decisions to be taken pursuant to Article 8, the time-limit of 14 days is replaced by seven days. Where the Commission determines a time-limit for the written procedure which is shorter than those specified above, the proposed time-limit shall be applicable in the absence of an objection by any Member State.

5. The Commission shall take the utmost account of the opinion delivered by the Advisory Committee. It shall inform the Committee of the manner in which its opinion has been taken into account.

6. Where the Advisory Committee delivers a written opinion, this opinion shall be appended to the draft decision. If the Advisory Committee recommends publication of the opinion, the Commission shall carry out such publication taking into account the legitimate interest of undertakings in the protection of their business secrets.

7. At the request of a competition authority of a Member State, the Commission shall include on the agenda of the Advisory Committee cases that are being dealt with by a competition authority of a Member State under Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty. The Commission may also do so on its own initiative. In either case, the Commission shall inform the competition authority concerned.

A request may in particular be made by a competition authority of a Member State in respect of a case where the Commission intends to initiate proceedings with the effect of Article 11(6).

The Advisory Committee shall not issue opinions on cases dealt with by competition authorities of the Member States. The Advisory Committee may also discuss general issues of Community competition law.

#### Article 15

##### Cooperation with national courts

1. In proceedings for the application of Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty, courts of the Member States may ask the Commission to transmit to them information in its possession or its opinion on questions concerning the application of the Community competition rules.

2. Member States shall forward to the Commission a copy of any written judgment of national courts deciding on the application of Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty. Such copy shall be forwarded without delay after the full written judgment is notified to the parties.

3. Competition authorities of the Member States, acting on their own initiative, may submit written observations to the national courts of their Member State on issues relating to the application of Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty. With the permission of the court in question, they may also submit oral observations to the national courts of their Member State. Where the coherent application of Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty so requires, the Commission, acting on its own initiative, may submit written observations to courts of the Member States. With the permission of the court in question, it may also make oral observations.

For the purpose of the preparation of their observations only, the competition authorities of the Member States and the Commission may request the relevant court of the Member State to transmit or ensure the transmission to them of any documents necessary for the assessment of the case.

4. This Article is without prejudice to wider powers to make observations before courts conferred on competition authorities of the Member States under the law of their Member State.

#### Article 16

##### Uniform application of Community competition law

1. When national courts rule on agreements, decisions or practices under Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty which are already the subject of a Commission decision, they cannot take decisions running counter to the decision adopted by the Commission. They must also avoid giving decisions which would conflict with a decision contemplated by the Commission in proceedings it has initiated. To that effect, the national court may assess whether it is necessary to stay its proceedings. This obligation is without prejudice to the rights and obligations under Article 234 of the Treaty.

2. When competition authorities of the Member States rule on agreements, decisions or practices under Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty which are already the subject of a Commission decision, they cannot take decisions which would run counter to the decision adopted by the Commission.

#### CHAPTER V

##### POWERS OF INVESTIGATION

#### Article 17

##### Investigations into sectors of the economy and into types of agreements

1. Where the trend of trade between Member States, the rigidity of prices or other circumstances suggest that competition may be restricted or distorted within the common market, the Commission may conduct its inquiry into a particular sector of the economy or into a particular type of agreements across various sectors. In the course of that inquiry, the Commission may request the undertakings or associations of undertakings concerned to supply the information necessary for giving effect to Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty and may carry out any inspections necessary for that purpose.

The Commission may in particular request the undertakings or associations of undertakings concerned to communicate to it all agreements, decisions and concerted practices.

The Commission may publish a report on the results of its inquiry into particular sectors of the economy or particular types of agreements across various sectors and invite comments from interested parties.

2. Articles 14, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 24 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

#### Article 18

##### Requests for information

1. In order to carry out the duties assigned to it by this Regulation, the Commission may, by simple request or by decision, require undertakings and associations of undertakings to provide all necessary information.

2. When sending a simple request for information to an undertaking or association of undertakings, the Commission shall state the legal basis and the purpose of the request, specify what information is required and fix the time-limit within which the information is to be provided, and the penalties provided for in Article 23 for supplying incorrect or misleading information.



3. Where the Commission requires undertakings and associations of undertakings to supply information by decision, it shall state the legal basis and the purpose of the request, specify what information is required and fix the time-limit within which it is to be provided. It shall also indicate the penalties provided for in Article 23 and indicate or impose the penalties provided for in Article 24. It shall further indicate the right to have the decision reviewed by the Court of Justice.

4. The owners of the undertakings or their representatives and, in the case of legal persons, companies or firms, or associations having no legal personality, the persons authorised to represent them by law or by their constitution shall supply the information requested on behalf of the undertaking or the association of undertakings concerned. Lawyers duly authorised to act may supply the information on behalf of their clients. The latter shall remain fully responsible if the information supplied is incomplete, incorrect or misleading.

5. The Commission shall without delay forward a copy of the simple request or of the decision to the competition authority of the Member State in whose territory the seat of the undertaking or association of undertakings is situated and the competition authority of the Member State whose territory is affected.

6. At the request of the Commission the governments and competition authorities of the Member States shall provide the Commission with all necessary information to carry out the duties assigned to it by this Regulation.

#### Article 19

##### Power to take statements

1. In order to carry out the duties assigned to it by this Regulation, the Commission may interview any natural or legal person who consents to be interviewed for the purpose of collecting information relating to the subject-matter of an investigation.

2. Where an interview pursuant to paragraph 1 is conducted in the premises of an undertaking, the Commission shall inform the competition authority of the Member State in whose territory the interview takes place. If so requested by the competition authority of that Member State, its officials may assist the officials and other accompanying persons authorised by the Commission to conduct the interview.

#### Article 20

##### The Commission's powers of inspection

1. In order to carry out the duties assigned to it by this Regulation, the Commission may conduct all necessary inspections of undertakings and associations of undertakings.

2. The officials and other accompanying persons authorised by the Commission to conduct an inspection are empowered:

- (a) to enter any premises, land and means of transport of undertakings and associations of undertakings;
- (b) to examine the books and other records related to the business, irrespective of the medium on which they are stored;
- (c) to take or obtain in any form copies of or extracts from such books or records;
- (d) to seal any business premises and books or records for the period and to the extent necessary for the inspection;
- (e) to ask any representative or member of staff of the undertaking or association of undertakings for explanations on facts or documents relating to the subject-matter and purpose of the inspection and to record the answers.



3. The officials and other accompanying persons authorised by the Commission to conduct an inspection shall exercise their powers upon production of a written authorisation specifying the subject matter and purpose of the inspection and the penalties provided for in Article 23 in case the production of the required books or other records related to the business is incomplete or where the answers to questions asked under paragraph 2 of the present Article are incorrect or misleading. In good time before the inspection, the Commission shall give notice of the inspection to the competition authority of the Member State in whose territory it is to be conducted.

4. Undertakings and associations of undertakings are required to submit to inspections ordered by decision of the Commission. The decision shall specify the subject matter and purpose of the inspection, appoint the date on which it is to begin and indicate the penalties provided for in Articles 23 and 24 and the right to have the decision reviewed by the Court of Justice. The Commission shall take such decisions after consulting the competition authority of the Member State in whose territory the inspection is to be conducted.

5. Officials as well as those authorised or appointed by the competition authority of the Member State in whose territory the inspection is to be conducted shall, at the request of that authority or of the Commission, actively assist the officials and other accompanying persons authorised by the Commission. To this end, they shall enjoy the powers specified in paragraph 2.

6. Where the officials and other accompanying persons authorised by the Commission find that an undertaking opposes an inspection ordered pursuant to this Article, the Member State concerned shall afford them the necessary assistance, requesting where appropriate the assistance of the police or of an equivalent enforcement authority, so as to enable them to conduct their inspection.

7. If the assistance provided for in paragraph 6 requires authorisation from a judicial authority according to national rules, such authorisation shall be applied for. Such authorisation may also be applied for as a precautionary measure.

8. Where authorisation as referred to in paragraph 7 is applied for, the national judicial authority shall control that the Commission decision is authentic and that the coercive measures envisaged are neither arbitrary nor excessive having regard to the subject matter of the inspection. In its control of the proportionality of the coercive measures, the national judicial authority may ask the Commission, directly or through the Member State competition authority, for detailed explanations in particular on the grounds the Commission has for suspecting infringement of Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty, as well as on the seriousness of the suspected infringement and on the nature of the involvement of the undertaking concerned. However, the national judicial authority may not call into question the necessity for the inspection nor demand that it be provided with the information in the Commission's file. The lawfulness of the Commission decision shall be subject to review only by the Court of Justice.

#### Article 21

##### Inspection of other premises

1. If a reasonable suspicion exists that books or other records related to the business and to the subject-matter of the inspection, which may be relevant to prove a serious violation of Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty, are being kept in any other premises, land and means of transport, including the homes of directors, managers and other members of staff of the undertakings and associations of undertakings concerned, the Commission can by decision order an inspection to be conducted in such other premises, land and means of transport.

2. The decision shall specify the subject matter and purpose of the inspection, appoint the date on which it is to begin and indicate the right to have the decision reviewed by the Court of Justice. It shall in particular state the reasons that have led the Commission to conclude that a suspicion in the sense of paragraph 1 exists. The Commission shall take such decisions after consulting the competition authority of the Member State in whose territory the inspection is to be conducted.

3. A decision adopted pursuant to paragraph 1 cannot be executed without prior authorisation from the national judicial authority of the Member State concerned. The national judicial authority shall control that the Commission decision is authentic and that the coercive measures envisaged are neither arbitrary nor excessive having regard in particular to the seriousness of the suspected infringement, to the importance of the evidence sought, to the involvement of the undertaking concerned and to the reasonable likelihood that business books and records relating to the subject matter of the inspection are kept in the premises for which the authorisation is requested. The national judicial authority may ask the Commission, directly or through the Member State competition authority, for detailed explanations on those elements which are necessary to allow its control of the proportionality of the coercive measures envisaged.

However, the national judicial authority may not call into question the necessity for the inspection nor demand that it be provided with information in the Commission's file. The lawfulness of the Commission decision shall be subject to review only by the Court of Justice.

4. The officials and other accompanying persons authorised by the Commission to conduct an inspection ordered in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article shall have the powers set out in Article 20(2)(a), (b) and (c). Article 20(5) and (6) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

#### Article 22

##### Investigations by competition authorities of Member States

1. The competition authority of a Member State may in its own territory carry out any inspection or other fact-finding measure under its national law on behalf and for the account of the competition authority of another Member State in order to establish whether there has been an infringement of Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty. Any exchange and use of the information collected shall be carried out in accordance with Article 12.

2. At the request of the Commission, the competition authorities of the Member States shall undertake the inspections which the Commission considers to be necessary under Article 20(1) or which it has ordered by decision pursuant to Article 20(4). The officials of the competition authorities of the Member States who are responsible for conducting these inspections as well as those authorised or appointed by them shall exercise their powers in accordance with their national law.

If so requested by the Commission or by the competition authority of the Member State in whose territory the inspection is to be conducted, officials and other accompanying persons authorised by the Commission may assist the officials of the authority concerned.

#### CHAPTER VI

##### PENALTIES

#### Article 23

##### Fines

1. The Commission may by decision impose on undertakings and associations of undertakings fines not exceeding 1 % of the total turnover in the preceding business year where, intentionally or negligently:
- (a) they supply incorrect or misleading information in response to a request made pursuant to Article 17 or Article 18(2);
  - (b) in response to a request made by decision adopted pursuant to Article 17 or Article 18(3), they supply incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or do not supply information within the required time-limit;
  - (c) they produce the required books or other records related to the business in incomplete form during inspections under Article 20 or refuse to submit to inspections ordered by a decision adopted pursuant to Article 20(4);

- (d) in response to a question asked in accordance with Article 20(2)(e),
  - they give an incorrect or misleading answer,
  - they fail to rectify within a time-limit set by the Commission an incorrect, incomplete or misleading answer given by a member of staff, or
  - they fail or refuse to provide a complete answer on facts relating to the subject-matter and purpose of an inspection ordered by a decision adopted pursuant to Article 20(4);
- (e) seals affixed in accordance with Article 20(2)(d) by officials or other accompanying persons authorised by the Commission have been broken.

2. The Commission may by decision impose fines on undertakings and associations of undertakings where, either intentionally or negligently:

- (a) they infringe Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty; or
- (b) they contravene a decision ordering interim measures under Article 8; or
- (c) they fail to comply with a commitment made binding by a decision pursuant to Article 9.

For each undertaking and association of undertakings participating in the infringement, the fine shall not exceed 10 % of its total turnover in the preceding business year.

Where the infringement of an association relates to the activities of its members, the fine shall not exceed 10 % of the sum of the total turnover of each member active on the market affected by the infringement of the association.

3. In fixing the amount of the fine, regard shall be had both to the gravity and to the duration of the infringement.

4. When a fine is imposed on an association of undertakings taking account of the turnover of its members and the association is not solvent, the association is obliged to call for contributions from its members to cover the amount of the fine,

Where such contributions have not been made to the association within a time-limit fixed by the Commission, the Commission may require payment of the fine directly by any of the undertakings whose representatives were members of the decision-making bodies concerned of the association.

After the Commission has required payment under the second subparagraph, where necessary to ensure full payment of the fine, the Commission may require payment of the balance by any of the members of the association which were active on the market on which the infringement occurred.

However, the Commission shall not require payment under the second or the third subparagraph from undertakings which show that they have not implemented the infringing decision of the association and either were not aware of its existence or have actively distanced themselves from it before the Commission started investigating the case.

The financial liability of each undertaking in respect of the payment of the fine shall not exceed 10 % of its total turnover in the preceding business year.

5. Decisions taken pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not be of a criminal law nature.

#### Article 24

##### Periodic penalty payments

1. The Commission may, by decision, impose on undertakings or associations of undertakings periodic penalty payments not exceeding 5 % of the average daily turnover in the preceding business year per day and calculated from the date appointed by the decision, in order to compel them:

- (a) to put an end to an infringement of Article 81 or Article 82 of the Treaty, in accordance with a decision taken pursuant to Article 7;

- (b) to comply with a decision ordering interim measures taken pursuant to Article 8;
- (c) to comply with a commitment made binding by a decision pursuant to Article 9;
- (d) to supply complete and correct information which it has requested by decision taken pursuant to Article 17 or Article 18(3);
- (e) to submit to an inspection which it has ordered by decision taken pursuant to Article 20(4).

2. Where the undertakings or associations of undertakings have satisfied the obligation which the periodic penalty payment was intended to enforce, the Commission may fix the definitive amount of the periodic penalty payment at a figure lower than that which would arise under the original decision. Article 23(4) shall apply correspondingly.

## CHAPTER VII

### LIMITATION PERIODS

#### Article 25

##### Limitation periods for the imposition of penalties

1. The powers conferred on the Commission by Articles 23 and 24 shall be subject to the following limitation periods:
  - (a) three years in the case of infringements of provisions concerning requests for information or the conduct of inspections;
  - (b) five years in the case of all other infringements.
2. Time shall begin to run on the day on which the infringement is committed. However, in the case of continuing or repeated infringements, time shall begin to run on the day on which the infringement ceases.
3. Any action taken by the Commission or by the competition authority of a Member State for the purpose of the investigation or proceedings in respect of an infringement shall interrupt the limitation period for the imposition of fines or periodic penalty payments. The limitation period shall be interrupted with effect from the date on which the action is notified to at least one undertaking or association of undertakings which has participated in the infringement. Actions which interrupt the running of the period shall include in particular the following:
  - (a) written requests for information by the Commission or by the competition authority of a Member State;
  - (b) written authorisations to conduct inspections issued to its officials by the Commission or by the competition authority of a Member State;
  - (c) the initiation of proceedings by the Commission or by the competition authority of a Member State;
  - (d) notification of the statement of objections of the Commission or of the competition authority of a Member State.
4. The interruption of the limitation period shall apply for all the undertakings or associations of undertakings which have participated in the infringement.
5. Each interruption shall start time running afresh. However, the limitation period shall expire at the latest on the day on which a period equal to twice the limitation period has elapsed without the Commission having imposed a fine or a periodic penalty payment. That period shall be extended by the time during which limitation is suspended pursuant to paragraph 6.
6. The limitation period for the imposition of fines or periodic penalty payments shall be suspended for as long as the decision of the Commission is the subject of proceedings pending before the Court of Justice.

## Article 26

**Limitation period for the enforcement of penalties**

1. The power of the Commission to enforce decisions taken pursuant to Articles 23 and 24 shall be subject to a limitation period of five years.
2. Time shall begin to run on the day on which the decision becomes final.
3. The limitation period for the enforcement of penalties shall be interrupted:
  - (a) by notification of a decision varying the original amount of the fine or periodic penalty payment or refusing an application for variation;
  - (b) by any action of the Commission or of a Member State, acting at the request of the Commission, designed to enforce payment of the fine or periodic penalty payment.
4. Each interruption shall start time running afresh.
5. The limitation period for the enforcement of penalties shall be suspended for so long as:
  - (a) time to pay is allowed;
  - (b) enforcement of payment is suspended pursuant to a decision of the Court of Justice.

## CHAPTER VIII

## HEARINGS AND PROFESSIONAL SECRECY

## Article 27

**Hearing of the parties, complainants and others**

1. Before taking decisions as provided for in Articles 7, 8, 23 and Article 24(2), the Commission shall give the undertakings or associations of undertakings which are the subject of the proceedings conducted by the Commission the opportunity of being heard on the matters to which the Commission has taken objection. The Commission shall base its decisions only on objections on which the parties concerned have been able to comment. Complainants shall be associated closely with the proceedings.
2. The rights of defence of the parties concerned shall be fully respected in the proceedings. They shall be entitled to have access to the Commission's file, subject to the legitimate interest of undertakings in the protection of their business secrets. The right of access to the file shall not extend to confidential information and internal documents of the Commission or the competition authorities of the Member States. In particular, the right of access shall not extend to correspondence between the Commission and the competition authorities of the Member States, or between the latter, including documents drawn up pursuant to Articles 11 and 14. Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the Commission from disclosing and using information necessary to prove an infringement.
3. If the Commission considers it necessary, it may also hear other natural or legal persons. Applications to be heard on the part of such persons shall, where they show a sufficient interest, be granted. The competition authorities of the Member States may also ask the Commission to hear other natural or legal persons.
4. Where the Commission intends to adopt a decision pursuant to Article 9 or Article 10, it shall publish a concise summary of the case and the main content of the commitments or of the proposed course of action. Interested third parties may submit their observations within a time limit which is fixed by the Commission in its publication and which may not be less than one month. Publication shall have regard to the legitimate interest of undertakings in the protection of their business secrets.

**Article 28****Professional secrecy**

1. Without prejudice to Articles 12 and 15, information collected pursuant to Articles 17 to 22 shall be used only for the purpose for which it was acquired.
2. Without prejudice to the exchange and to the use of information foreseen in Articles 11, 12, 14, 15 and 27, the Commission and the competition authorities of the Member States, their officials, servants and other persons working under the supervision of these authorities as well as officials and civil servants of other authorities of the Member States shall not disclose information acquired or exchanged by them pursuant to this Regulation and of the kind covered by the obligation of professional secrecy. This obligation also applies to all representatives and experts of Member States attending meetings of the Advisory Committee pursuant to Article 14.

## CHAPTER IX

## EXEMPTION REGULATIONS

**Article 29****Withdrawal in individual cases**

1. Where the Commission, empowered by a Council Regulation, such as Regulations 19/65/EEC, (EEC) No 2821/71, (EEC) No 3976/87, (EEC) No 1534/91 or (EEC) No 479/92, to apply Article 81(3) of the Treaty by regulation, has declared Article 81(1) of the Treaty inapplicable to certain categories of agreements, decisions by associations of undertakings or concerted practices, it may, acting on its own initiative or on a complaint, withdraw the benefit of such an exemption Regulation when it finds that in any particular case an agreement, decision or concerted practice to which the exemption Regulation applies has certain effects which are incompatible with Article 81(3) of the Treaty.

2. Where, in any particular case, agreements, decisions by associations of undertakings or concerted practices to which a Commission Regulation referred to in paragraph 1 applies have effects which are incompatible with Article 81(3) of the Treaty in the territory of a Member State, or in a part thereof, which has all the characteristics of a distinct geographic market, the competition authority of that Member State may withdraw the benefit of the Regulation in question in respect of that territory.

## CHAPTER X

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Article 30****Publication of decisions**

1. The Commission shall publish the decisions, which it takes pursuant to Articles 7 to 10, 23 and 24.
2. The publication shall state the names of the parties and the main content of the decision, including any penalties imposed. It shall have regard to the legitimate interest of undertakings in the protection of their business secrets.

**Article 31****Review by the Court of Justice**

The Court of Justice shall have unlimited jurisdiction to review decisions whereby the Commission has fixed a fine or periodic penalty payment. It may cancel, reduce or increase the fine or periodic penalty payment imposed.

**Article 32****Exclusions**

This Regulation shall not apply to:

- (a) international tramp vessel services as defined in Article 1(3)(a) of Regulation (EEC) No 4056/86;
- (b) a maritime transport service that takes place exclusively between ports in one and the same Member State as foreseen in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4056/86;
- (c) air transport between Community airports and third countries.

**Article 33****Implementing provisions**

1. The Commission shall be authorised to take such measures as may be appropriate in order to apply this Regulation. The measures may concern, *inter alia*:

- (a) the form, content and other details of complaints lodged pursuant to Article 7 and the procedure for rejecting complaints;
- (b) the practical arrangements for the exchange of information and consultations provided for in Article 11;
- (c) the practical arrangements for the hearings provided for in Article 27.

2. Before the adoption of any measures pursuant to paragraph 1, the Commission shall publish a draft thereof and invite all interested parties to submit their comments within the time-limit it lays down, which may not be less than one month. Before publishing a draft measure and before adopting it, the Commission shall consult the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions.

## CHAPTER XI

## TRANSITIONAL, AMENDING AND FINAL PROVISIONS

**Article 34****Transitional provisions**

1. Applications made to the Commission under Article 2 of Regulation No 17, notifications made under Articles 4 and 5 of that Regulation and the corresponding applications and notifications made under Regulations (EEC) No 1017/68, (EEC) No 4056/86 and (EEC) No 3975/87 shall lapse as from the date of application of this Regulation.
2. Procedural steps taken under Regulation No 17 and Regulations (EEC) No 1017/68, (EEC) No 4056/86 and (EEC) No 3975/87 shall continue to have effect for the purposes of applying this Regulation.

**Article 35****Designation of competition authorities of Member States**

1. The Member States shall designate the competition authority or authorities responsible for the application of Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty in such a way that the provisions of this regulation are effectively complied with. The measures necessary to empower those authorities to apply those Articles shall be taken before 1 May 2004. The authorities designated may include courts.



2. When enforcement of Community competition law is entrusted to national administrative and judicial authorities, the Member States may allocate different powers and functions to those different national authorities, whether administrative or judicial.

3. The effects of Article 11(6) apply to the authorities designated by the Member States including courts that exercise functions regarding the preparation and the adoption of the types of decisions foreseen in Article 5. The effects of Article 11(6) do not extend to courts insofar as they act as review courts in respect of the types of decisions foreseen in Article 5.

4. Notwithstanding paragraph 3, in the Member States where, for the adoption of certain types of decisions foreseen in Article 5, an authority brings an action before a judicial authority that is separate and different from the prosecuting authority and provided that the terms of this paragraph are complied with, the effects of Article 11(6) shall be limited to the authority prosecuting the case which shall withdraw its claim before the judicial authority when the Commission opens proceedings and this withdrawal shall bring the national proceedings effectively to an end.

#### Article 36

#### Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1017/68

Regulation (EEC) No 1017/68 is amended as follows:

1. Article 2 is repealed;
2. in Article 3(1), the words 'The prohibition laid down in Article 2' are replaced by the words 'The prohibition in Article 81(1) of the Treaty';
3. Article 4 is amended as follows:
  - (a) In paragraph 1, the words 'The agreements, decisions and concerted practices referred to in Article 2' are replaced by the words 'Agreements, decisions and concerted practices pursuant to Article 81(1) of the Treaty';
  - (b) Paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

'2. If the implementation of any agreement, decision or concerted practice covered by paragraph 1 has, in a given case, effects which are incompatible with the requirements of Article 81(3) of the Treaty, undertakings or associations of undertakings may be required to make such effects cease.'
4. Articles 5 to 29 are repealed with the exception of Article 13(3) which continues to apply to decisions adopted pursuant to Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No 1017/68 prior to the date of application of this Regulation until the date of expiration of those decisions;
5. in Article 30, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 are deleted.

#### Article 37

#### Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 2988/74

In Regulation (EEC) No 2988/74, the following Article is inserted:

'Article 7a

#### Exclusion

This Regulation shall not apply to measures taken under Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2003 of 16 December 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty (\*).

(\* ) OJ L 1, 4.1.2003, p. 1.'



## Article 38

## Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 4056/86

Regulation (EEC) No 4056/86 is amended as follows:

## 1. Article 7 is amended as follows:

## (a) Paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. *Breach of an obligation*

Where the persons concerned are in breach of an obligation which, pursuant to Article 5, attaches to the exemption provided for in Article 3, the Commission may, in order to put an end to such breach and under the conditions laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2003 of 16 December 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty (\*) adopt a decision that either prohibits them from carrying out or requires them to perform certain specific acts, or withdraws the benefit of the block exemption which they enjoyed.

(\*) OJ L 1, 4.1.2003, p. 1.'

## (b) Paragraph 2 is amended as follows:

(i) In point (a), the words 'under the conditions laid down in Section II' are replaced by the words 'under the conditions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1/2003';

(ii) The second sentence of the second subparagraph of point (c)(i) is replaced by the following:

'At the same time it shall decide, in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2003, whether to accept commitments offered by the undertakings concerned with a view, *inter alia*, to obtaining access to the market for non-conference lines.'

## 2. Article 8 is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph 1 is deleted.

(b) In paragraph 2 the words 'pursuant to Article 10' are replaced by the words 'pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1/2003'.

(c) Paragraph 3 is deleted;

## 3. Article 9 is amended as follows:

(a) In paragraph 1, the words 'Advisory Committee referred to in Article 15' are replaced by the words 'Advisory Committee referred to in Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2003';

(b) In paragraph 2, the words 'Advisory Committee as referred to in Article 15' are replaced by the words 'Advisory Committee referred to in Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2003';

4. Articles 10 to 25 are repealed with the exception of Article 13(3) which continues to apply to decisions adopted pursuant to Article 81(3) of the Treaty prior to the date of application of this Regulation until the date of expiration of those decisions;

5. In Article 26, the words 'the form, content and other details of complaints pursuant to Article 10, applications pursuant to Article 12 and the hearings provided for in Article 23(1) and (2)' are deleted.

## Article 39

## Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 3975/87

Articles 3 to 19 of Regulation (EEC) No 3975/87 are repealed with the exception of Article 6(3) which continues to apply to decisions adopted pursuant to Article 81(3) of the Treaty prior to the date of application of this Regulation until the date of expiration of those decisions.

*Article 40***Amendment of Regulations No 19/65/EEC, (EEC) No 2821/71 and (EEC) No 1534/91**

Article 7 of Regulation No 19/65/EEC, Article 7 of Regulation (EEC) No 2821/71 and Article 7 of Regulation (EEC) No 1534/91 are repealed.

*Article 41***Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 3976/87**

Regulation (EEC) No 3976/87 is amended as follows:

1. Article 6 is replaced by the following:

*'Article 6*

The Commission shall consult the Advisory Committee referred to in Article 14 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2003 of 16 December 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty (\*) before publishing a draft Regulation and before adopting a Regulation.

(\*) OJ L 1, 4.1.2003, p. 1.'

2. Article 7 is repealed.

*Article 42***Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 479/92**

Regulation (EEC) No 479/92 is amended as follows:

1. Article 5 is replaced by the following:

*'Article 5*

Before publishing the draft Regulation and before adopting the Regulation, the Commission shall consult the Advisory Committee referred to in Article 14 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2003 of 16 December 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty (\*).

(\*) OJ L 1, 4.1.2003, p. 1.'

2. Article 6 is repealed.

*Article 43***Repeal of Regulations No 17 and No 141**

1. Regulation No 17 is repealed with the exception of Article 8(3) which continues to apply to decisions adopted pursuant to Article 81(3) of the Treaty prior to the date of application of this Regulation until the date of expiration of those decisions.
2. Regulation No 141 is repealed.
3. References to the repealed Regulations shall be construed as references to this Regulation.

*Article 44***Report on the application of the present Regulation**

Five years from the date of application of this Regulation, the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the functioning of this Regulation, in particular on the application of Article 11(6) and Article 17.

On the basis of this report, the Commission shall assess whether it is appropriate to propose to the Council a revision of this Regulation.

4.1.2003

EN

Official Journal of the European Communities

L 1/25

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*Article 45*

**Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 20th day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall apply from 1 May 2004.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 16 December 2002.

*For the Council*  
*The President*  
M. FISCHER BOEL

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**EXHIBIT C**  
**1 OF 2**



**61976J0085**

Judgment of the Court of 13 February 1979.

Hoffmann-La Roche & Co. AG v Commission of the European Communities.

Dominant position.

Case 85/76.

*European Court reports 1979 Page 00461*

*Greek special edition 1979:I Page 00215*

*Portuguese special edition 1979:I Page 00217*

*Swedish special edition IV Page 00315*

*Finnish special edition IV Page 00341*

*Spanish special edition 1979 Page 00225*

**Dates:**

of document: 13/02/1979

of application: 27/08/1976

**Type of procedure:** Application for annulment - unfounded ; Appeal against penalty - successful

**Judge-Rapporteur:** Mertens de Wilmars

**Notes relating to the decision:**

*Baden Fuller, C.W.: European Law Review 1979 p.423-441*

*Alexander, W.: Ars aequi 1979 p.545-548*

*Bennett, T.J.: European Law Review 1979 p.210-220*

*Barents, R.: S.E.W. ; Sociaal-economische wetgeving 1979 p.530-534*

*Dhaeyer, Bernard: Journal des tribunaux 1979 p.401-406*

*Elsener, Ferdinand: Revue suisse de droit International de la concurrence 1979 n° 7 p.45-57*

*Krsjak, Peter: La vie judiciaire 1979 n° 1727 p.1 p.5-6*

*Maitland-Walker, Julian: European Intellectual Property Review 1979 p.357-361*

*Meier, G.: Neue juristische Wochenschrift 1979 p.2461*

*Pardolesi, R.: Il Foro italiano 1979 IV Col.380-381*

*Pesce, Angelo: Il Foro padano 1979 IV Col.45-46*

*Fernández-Novoa, Carlos: Actas de derecho Industrial 1979-80 Tomo VI p.247-272*

*Garner, Scott S.: Journal of International Law and Economics 1980 Vol.14 p.485-508*

*Laurent, Philippe: Gazette du Palais 1980 III Doct. p.64-66*

*Piselli, Pierluigi: Rivista di diritto Industriale 1980 II p.207-260*

*White, Eric L.: The Law Society's Gazette 1980 p.246-247*

*Zanon, Lucio: Journal of World Trade Law 1981 n° 4 p.305-322*

*Cicala, Curzio: La funzione amministrativa 1989 p.430-462*

*Barents, R.: Annotaties Hof van Justitie EG (Ed. W.E.J. Tjeenk Willink - Zwolle) 1995 p.326-330*

**Authentic language:** German

**Subject matter:** Competition ; Rules applying to undertakings ; Dominant position ; Exclusive agreements

**Instruments cited in case law:**

157E002 : N 125

157E003-LF : N 38 125 132

157E037-P1 : N 132

157E040-P3L2 : N 132

157E085-P1 : N 129

157E085-P3 : N 90 116 120

157E085 : N 14 116 125 132

157E086-L2LB : N 134  
157E086-L2LC : N 90 122 134  
157E086-L2LD : N 111 134  
157E086 : N 21 - 30 38 - 41 48 49 70 89 90 107  
157E086 : N 123 - 126 131 - 134  
157E087 : N 129  
157E090 : N 132  
359X0301-A69P3 : N 142  
362R0017-A02 : N 129 134 139  
362R0017-A03 : N 7  
362R0017-A15 : N 7 137 139  
362R0017-A15P2 : N 129  
362R0017-A17 : N 141  
362R0017-A18 : N 3  
362R0017-A19 : N 9 13  
362R0017-A19P1 : N 9  
362R0017-A20 : N 14  
362R0017-A20P2 : N 13 14  
362R0017-A21 : N 13  
363R0099-A04 : N 9  
368X0313 : N 3  
369D0477 : N 135  
669J0045 : N 10  
376D0642-A01 : N 1  
376D0642-A02 : N 1  
376D0642-A03 : N 1  
376D0642 : N 1 - 141  
676J0027 : N 70

**Case affecting:**

Confirms 376D0642-A01  
Amends 376D0642-A03

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**Keywords:**

- 1 . COMMUNITY LAW - OBSERVANCE OF THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD - FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE - FIELD OF APPLICATION - COMPETITION - ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS - SCOPE OF THE PRINCIPLE  
( COUNCIL REGULATION NO 17 , ART . 19 ( 1 ) ; REGULATION OF THE COMMISSION NO 99/63 , ART . 4 )
- 2 . COMPETITION - ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS - COMMISSION ' S POWERS OF INVESTIGATION - INFORMATION COVERED BY PROFESSIONAL SECRECY - USE AGAINST AN UNDERTAKING OF THE OBLIGATION TO OBSERVE PROFESSIONAL SECRECY - CONDITION - OBSERVANCE OF THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD  
( COUNCIL REGULATION NO 17 , ART . 20 ( 2 ) )
- 3 . COMPETITION - DOMINANT POSITION - RELEVANT MARKET - DELIMITATION - PRODUCT USABLE FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES  
( EEC TREATY , ART . 86 )
- 4 . COMPETITION - DOMINANT POSITION - CONCEPT  
( EEC TREATY , ART . 86 )
- 5 . COMPETITION - DOMINANT POSITION - EXISTENCE - MARKET SHARE - OTHER CRITERIA  
( EEC TREATY , ART . 86 )
- 6 . COMPETITION - DOMINANT POSITION - ABUSE - CONCEPT  
( EEC TREATY , ART . 86 )

7 . COMPETITION - DOMINANT POSITION - ABUSE - AGREEMENT TO OBTAIN SUPPLIES EXCLUSIVELY FROM ONE SUPPLIER - FIDELITY REBATES - ' ' ENGLISH ' ' CLAUSE ( EEC TREATY , ART . 86 )

8 . COMPETITION - DOMINANT POSITION - ABUSE - FIDELITY REBATES - APPLICATION OF DISSIMILAR CONDITIONS TO EQUIVALENT TRANSACTIONS ( EEC TREATY , ART 86 ( C ) )

#### **Summary**

1 . OBSERVANCE OF THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD IS IN ALL PROCEEDINGS IN WHICH SANCTIONS , IN PARTICULAR FINES OR PENALTY PAYMENTS , MAY BE IMPOSED A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF COMMUNITY LAW WHICH MUST BE RESPECTED EVEN IF THE PROCEEDINGS IN QUESTION ARE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS .

IN THE MATTER OF COMPETITION AND IN THE CONTEXT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR A FINDING OF INFRINGEMENTS OF ARTICLES 85 OR 86 OF THE TREATY , OBSERVANCE OF THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD REQUIRES THAT THE UNDERTAKINGS CONCERNED MUST HAVE BEEN AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR VIEWS ON THE TRUTH AND RELEVANCE OF THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES ALLEGED AND ON THE DOCUMENTS USED BY THE COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF ITS CLAIM THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INFRINGEMENT .

2 . THE OBLIGATION ON THE COMMISSION UNDER ARTICLE 20 ( 2 ) OF REGULATION NO 17 TO OBSERVE PROFESSIONAL SECRECY MUST BE RECONCILED WITH THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD . BY PROVIDING UNDERTAKINGS FROM WHOM INFORMATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED WITH A GUARANTEE THAT THEIR INTERESTS , WHICH ARE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH OBSERVANCE OF PROFESSIONAL SECRECY , ARE NOT JEOPARDIZED , THAT PROVISION ENABLES THE COMMISSION TO COLLECT ON THE WIDEST POSSIBLE SCALE THE REQUISITE DATA FOR THE FULFILMENT OF ITS TASK OF SUPERVISION WITHOUT THE UNDERTAKINGS BEING ABLE TO PREVENT IT FROM DOING SO ; THE COMMISSION MAY NOT HOWEVER USE , TO THE DETRIMENT OF AN UNDERTAKING IN PROCEEDINGS FOR A FINDING OF AN INFRINGEMENT OF THE RULES ON COMPETITION , FACTS OR DOCUMENTS WHICH IT CANNOT IN ITS VIEW DISCLOSE IF SUCH A REFUSAL OF DISCLOSURE ADVERSELY AFFECTS THAT UNDERTAKING ' S OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE KNOWN EFFECTIVELY ITS VIEWS ON THE TRUTH OR IMPLICATIONS OF THOSE FACTS OR DOCUMENTS OR AGAIN ON THE CONCLUSIONS DRAWN BY THE COMMISSION FROM THEM .

3 . IF A PRODUCT COULD BE USED FOR DIFFERENT PURPOSES AND IF THESE DIFFERENT USES ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ECONOMIC NEEDS , WHICH ARE THEMSELVES ALSO DIFFERENT , THERE ARE GOOD GROUNDS FOR ACCEPTING THAT THIS PRODUCT MAY , ACCORDING TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES , BELONG TO SEPARATE MARKETS WHICH MAY PRESENT SPECIFIC FEATURES WHICH DIFFER FROM THE STANDPOINT BOTH OF THE STRUCTURE AND OF THE CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION . HOWEVER THIS FINDING DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE CONCLUSION THAT SUCH A PRODUCT TOGETHER WITH ALL THE OTHER PRODUCTS WHICH CAN REPLACE IT AS FAR AS CONCERNS THE VARIOUS USES TO WHICH IT MAY BE PUT AND WITH WHICH IT MAY COMPETE , FORMS ONE SINGLE MARKET . THE CONCEPT OF THE RELEVANT MARKET IN FACT IMPLIES THAT THERE CAN BE EFFECTIVE COMPETITION BETWEEN THE PRODUCTS WHICH FORM PART OF IT AND THIS PRESUPPOSES THAT THERE IS A SUFFICIENT DEGREE OF INTERCHANGEABILITY BETWEEN ALL THE PRODUCTS FORMING PART OF THE SAME MARKET IN SO FAR AS A SPECIFIC USE OF SUCH PRODUCTS IS CONCERNED .

4 . THE DOMINANT POSITION REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 86 OF THE TREATY RELATES TO A POSITION OF ECONOMIC STRENGTH ENJOYED BY AN UNDERTAKING WHICH ENABLES IT TO PREVENT EFFECTIVE COMPETITION BEING MAINTAINED ON THE RELEVANT MARKET BY AFFORDING IT THE POWER TO BEHAVE TO AN APPRECIABLE EXTENT INDEPENDENTLY OF ITS COMPETITORS , ITS CUSTOMERS AND ULTIMATELY OF THE CONSUMERS . SUCH A