

MERGERS COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

- 1.1 The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission ("Commission") will publish on its website notice of all mergers notified to it and of all determinations reached, as required by applicable law. The Commission will not comment on the timing or content of such determinations in advance.
- 1.2 Press releases will be issued in the following circumstances:
 - (a) When the Commission decides to carry out full (i.e. Phase 2) investigation in respect of a particular merger.
 - (b) When the Commission makes a determination at the end of a full (i.e. Phase 2) investigation.
 - (c) In the event of something "remarkable" e.g. when the Commission makes a decision at Phase 1 in which it accepts proposals put forward by the parties in relation to the merger, in cases involving the referral of a merger between the Commission and the European Commission, in cases involving "gun-jumping" (i.e. where a merger that is subject to mandatory notification to the Commission is put into effect without prior Commission clearance), and where a notified merger is of particular public interest.
- 1.3 Where, in the Commission's opinion, a notified merger has been put into effect prior to being cleared by the Commission (i.e. in cases involving "gun-jumping"), the Commission will normally issue a press release announcing that fact without waiting for the conclusion of the merger investigation.
- 1.4 In merger cases where a press release is not warranted, the Commission Mergers Division will prepare a press-release-style document and publish it on the relevant page of the Commission website relating to the merger in question. This is called a "Merger Announcement".
- 1.5 On the Commission website, visitors can sign up for alerts to be kept informed of merger news. Persons who sign up for these alerts receive an email notification

informing them of new mergers notified to the Commission, or significant changes to the status of notified mergers. Interested parties can also view merger news on the “Merger Notifications” section of the Commission website.

- 1.6 The Commission’s website will be the primary source of ongoing information although in appropriate circumstances the Mergers Division will explain procedural matters.
- 1.7 Determinations, with confidential information removed, will be published on the Commission's website as soon as practicable after the determination is made.
- 1.8 Other than through public announcements as set out above, no Member or member of staff of the Commission will, in advance of a decision, comment publicly, on-record or off-record, on any mergers that have been or may be notified. All other material (e.g. pre-notification discussions) shall remain strictly confidential. Any advance speculation about the likely approach or view of the Commission will have no factual basis.
- 1.9 All press enquiries and communications will be handled by the Commission’s Head of Corporate Communications. All enquiries to any other person in the Commission will be redirected to the Head of Corporate Communications. The Head of Corporate Communications may subsequently pass the person enquiring on to another member of Commission staff if appropriate.
- 1.10 Commission members and staff may refer to previous mergers in subsequent speeches, conferences, reports (including annual reports) etc. Such references will be based solely on the publicly available information in published merger determinations.

31 October 2014