MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT   20 OCTOBER 2010

Competition Authority Clears the Acquisition by Fexco of Goodbody

The Competition Authority has today cleared the proposed transaction whereby Fexco Holdings Limited would acquire sole control of Goodbody Holdings Limited and all its subsidiaries. The transaction was notified by the parties under the Competition Act 2002 on 24 September 2010.

The Authority has formed the view that the proposed transaction does not raise any competition concerns in the State. The companies have been informed of the decision that the proposed transaction will not lead to a substantial lessening of competition in any markets for goods or services in the State. The Authority will publish a public version of the reasons for its determination on its website (www.tca.ie) no later than 17 December 2010 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

Notes

Fexco Holdings Limited, established in 1981 and headquartered in Killorglin, Co. Kerry, is a privately owned holding company of the Fexco group of companies. Fexco Holdings Limited and its affiliates currently provide, a range of services, globally and within the State, including car hire services, investment intermediary services and stockbroking services. Stockbroking services are provided by Fexco Stockbroking, a wholly owned subsidiary of Fexco Holdings Limited.

Goodbody Holdings Limited is a private limited company incorporated in Ireland and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of AIB Capital Markets plc, a division of AIB Group plc. Goodbody Stockbrokers, a wholly owned subsidiary of Goodbody Holdings Limited, was established in 1877 and is headquartered in Dublin. Within the State, Goodbody Stockbrokers provides a wide range of stockbroking services to institutional and private clients, ranging from discretionary services and advisory services to execution-only services. Goodbody Stockbrokers also offers online share dealing services.

For further information contact:

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