

INTERNATIONAL NEWS¹

EUROPEAN UNION

- An objection has been raised by the European Commission (EC) regarding Oracle, the world's biggest proprietary database company's takeover of Sun Microsystems, the leading in open-source software. A formal statement of objections was issued which stated that the takeover would damage competition in the database market by providing consumers with fewer choices and higher prices. Oracle opposed it by saying that its position in the market reflects "a profound misunderstanding of both database competition and open source dynamics."

Oracle argues that there are "at least eight strong players" in the database market, and that Oracle and MySQL offer "very different database products." "There is no basis in European law for objecting to a merger of two among eight firms selling differentiated products," Oracle said. "Mergers like this occur regularly and have not been prohibited by United States or European regulators in decades."²

- The European Antitrust watchdog has begun a *suo-moto* investigation against Thomson Reuters, a financial data provider, to find out whether it is abusing the rules of monopoly by locking customers into its services. The investigation will be of Thomson Reuters' practices in the area of real-time market data feeds, to figure out whether customers or competitors are stopped in any manner from translating Reuters Instrument Codes (RICs) to the codes of other data feed suppliers into alternative identification codes (so-called 'mapping') against the rules of competition law.

RICs that assist in identifying financial instruments help in retrieval of information from Thomson Reuters real-time data feeds. Thomson Reuters, might have a dominant position in the supply of real-time market data, such as stock market prices, and this position is being abused through contracts with consumers.³

- The European Commission imposed a €173 million fines on 10 companies for their participation in a lengthy price-fixing scheme for heat stabilizers. The combined markets for tin stabilizers and ESBO/esters in the EEA were worth about €121 million at the time of the infringement of Competition laws. The charges relate to tin stabilizers during the years 1987-2000, and to ESBO/ester heat stabilizers between 1991-2000. The whistleblower for this cartel was Chemtura Corp. and it was granted leniency and was not fined the €20+ million fine it would have had to pay.

¹ **Compiled by Competition Law Team, Luthra & Luthra Law Offices, New Delhi**

² <http://www.physorg.com/news177020567.html>; <http://www.scientificcomputing.com/news-HPC-EU-Objects-to-Oracle-Takeover-of-Sun-111009.aspx>

³ http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/dd09e0ea-ce62-11de-a1ea-00144feabdc0.html?nclick_check=1;
http://www.domain-b.com/companies/companies_t/Thomson/20091111_thomson_reuters.html

The Competition Commission of India (Lesser Penalty) Regulations, 2009 also provide for graded leniency to more than one enterprise seeking refuge.

The charges of price fixing, sharing customers, allocation of markets and exchanging sensitive commercial information were on 24 different business units or subsidiaries of 10 suppliers: AkzoNobel, Baerlocher, Ciba, Elementis, the former Elf Aquitaine (now Arkema France), GEA, Chemson, Faci, Reagens and AC Treuhand. Fines on Arkema France, Baerlocher and Ciba were reduced 30%, 20% and 15%, respectively, for cooperating with the Commission investigation.⁴

- In the opinion of UK's Competition Commission (CC), Stagecoach's influence on the Preston bus company would "reduce competition and potentially harm the interests of passengers." Till a few months ago before the purchase of Preston by Stagecoach, the two had been business rivals. In the Commission's final report, they have stated that Stagecoach must sell the Preston to one of their competitors. For this to be effective, the Commission needs to approve the new potential owner so that effective competition can take place in the market.

Stagecoach responded saying that the view of the Commission is "perverse and irrational" and they would be appealing. The CC sums up that the sale of a reconfigured Preston Bus will be the most effective way to maintain the distorted competition and safeguard passenger interests. The sale will include a bus depot, other assets and a network of routes, including services formerly run by Preston Bus but since transferred to Stagecoach following the acquisition.⁵

- The Swiss branches of Pfizer Inc., Eli Lilly & Co. and Bayer AG were fined a total of 5.7 million francs for alleged price fixing of drugs for erectile dysfunction such as the prices of Viagra, Cialis and Levitra.

Charged drug makers are of the view that the price fixing was done in the form of public price recommendations. Bayer was examining how it could challenge the fine, and Pfizer is of the opinion that this decision will not survive a court examination.⁶

- The EC under the EU Merger Regulation has cleared the proposed merger of the flexible packaging and folding carton businesses of the UK-based Alcan Packaging by Amcor of Australia. The decision taken by the Commission is conditional upon the divestiture of the major part of Amcor's business in pharmaceutical flexible packaging. In light of

⁴ <http://www.plasticstoday.com/articles/big-fines-heat-stabilizer-cartel>; <http://www.law360.com/articles/133642>

⁵ <http://news.coachbroker.co.uk/competition-commission-rules-stagecoach-must-sell-preston-bus-134500/>;
<http://www.netnewspublisher.com/stagecoach-group-plc-ordered-to-sell-preston-bus-limited/>

⁶ <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/12/01/financial/f033348S38.DTL>;
<http://news.moneycentral.msn.com/ticker/article.aspx?Feed=AP&Date=20091201&ID=10775551&Symbol=PFE>

commitments given by Amcor, the Commission has reached the conclusion that the proposed transaction would not significantly impede effective competition or distort competition in any manner in the European Economic Area (EEA) or any substantial part of it.⁷ Under the Indian Competition Law, the Competition Commission of India is also empowered to approve "Combination" subject to divestiture of 'assets', 'business' etc. as it may deem appropriate.

- The EC resolved its remaining antitrust issues with Microsoft Corp. after Microsoft gave an assurance in the form of a settlement agreement to the Commission that it would market rival browsers alongside its own Internet Explorer. This would ensure that the consumers have the choice in the manner of the browser that they wish to use and resulted in the Commission dropping antitrust charges against Microsoft after the software giant agreed to give Windows OS users a choice of up to 12 other Web browsers, including Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Apple's Safari and Opera. To guarantee that the choice was given to the consumers, Microsoft will need to implement a ballot screen that lets users in Europe replace Internet Explorer with another browser, starting March 2010. The deal also means computer manufacturers will now be able to ship PCs in Europe that do not come pre-installed with IE and can support any other web browser.⁸
- The UK Airport operator, BAA won its appeal against an order to sell three of its UK airports on the basis that the ruling panel was affected by "apparent bias". The arguments put forward by BAA were that there was a conflict of interest as there were links between a member of the Commission and an organization that was interested in purchasing the airports. It was argued that they were being forced to sell the airports too quickly. The ruling passed by the Commission in March was that BAA must sell Gatwick, Stansted and either Edinburgh or Glasgow airports within succeeding two years. BAA has already sold Gatwick but the judgement will not affect that sale. It is unclear whether BAA will have to sell the other airports.⁹
- The proposed merger of Ticketmaster, a ticketing agent and Live Nation, a live music promoter and a venue operator in the UK has been decided to be approved by the Commission. Ticketmaster as well as Live Nation are headquartered in the USA, and the merger is also being investigated by the US competition authorities. It is contended that the merger would not result in the lessening of competition in the market for live music

⁷ <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1921&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>; http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/index/m111.html#m_5599

⁸ <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704541004574599531758222294.html>;
http://business.theatlantic.com/2009/12/microsoft_settles_its_european_browser_antitrust_case.php

⁹ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8424365.stm>;
http://airportwatch.org.uk/news/detail.php?art_id=748&art_AIRPORTWATCH=Y

ticket retailing or in any other market in the UK, including live music promotion and live music venues.

Before this merger, Live Nation entered into an agreement with CTS Eventim, Ticketmaster's competitor where Eventim will provide ticketing software and services for it to sell its own tickets. The Commission has confirmed that the merger will make minimal difference to Eventim's prospects in the UK as they would still be paid for every ticket sold using their services.¹⁰

- Currently, only directors having personal responsibility for the companies contravention are likely to face disqualification for breach of competition law. The court's powers already exist under the amended Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 but they have simply not been used before. Lawyers say that such a move will stop directors from "turning a blind eye" to anti-competitive practices.

The OFT has launched a consultation paper to consider increasing the prospects for enforcement action against directors for infringements of EU or UK competition law and this would mean to include any competition breach and not only the hardcore offences as the release envisages. The OFT or Regulator will generally apply for CDOs in respect of breaches of competition law that have been proven in decisions or judgments.¹¹

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- US internet company, Google has made an announcement to acquire AdMob, a mobile display ad technology provider, for \$750 million. This acquisition will boost Google's existing expertise and technology in mobile advertising and make it popular on the big screen as well as the small screen, while also giving advertisers and publishers more choice in this growing new area. The transaction will bring to the market new technology and increase competition and that would in turn lead to more valuable inputs for creating, serving, and analyzing emerging mobile ads formats. Through this there would be an enhancement of competition in the market, and it would prove beneficial to the likes of developers, publishers, and advertisers.

¹⁰ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8425753.stm>;
<http://www.zibb.com/article/5746927/UK+Government+CC+clears+Ticketmaster+Live+Nation+merger>

¹¹ http://www.hhlaw.com/files/Publication/a2cc5fae-32d0-42f1-8dac-c723dc7bc3cd/Presentation/PublicationAttachment/a4708cff-1cf9-47ee-abe8-cef248806771/Antitrust_24Augsust09.pdf; <http://www.worldfinance.com/news/home/special-reports/article853.html>

Experts believe that mobile advertising is such a space, in which "no ad network is dominant" and "no one really knows what ad network is biggest." There is healthy competition and this would further help in inducing the same as it is an extremely fast paced market.¹²

- A manufacturer of video game hardware, Datel, has sued Microsoft in the US federal court, alleging that the Xbox 360 maker used a restrictive software update to drive it out of the video game market. Microsoft has kept the market all to themselves by persuading the consumers only to buy the Microsoft memory cards. This was accomplished by their latest update by making a system change that will not recognize or allow operation of a memory card with greater capacity than their own. A 512MB Microsoft Memory Unit sells for \$30 USD while "unlicensed" storage devices like the 2GB Datel Memory Unit sells for \$40 USD. Datel believes that "with the power Microsoft enjoys in the market for Xbox accessories this conduct is unlawful."

Datel pleads for a jury trial, given the anti-competitive nature of the move and according to Datel Microsoft's purpose in disabling Datel's memory cards is to prevent consumers from choosing a Datel product that offers far better value for the price. There is no benefit to consumers from Microsoft's decision to target and disable Datel's memory cards.¹³

- The FTC approved the \$9 billion merger of Panasonic Corp. and Sanyo Electronic Co. on the pretext that Sanyo must sell its portable nickel metal hydride (NiMH) battery business, including a manufacturing plant in Japan. Both the companies are the world's largest makers of such batteries, which power products including two-way radios used by police and fire departments throughout the United States.

The battery business will be purchased within 15 days of the acquisition, by FDK Corp., a subsidiary of Fujitsu Ltd. Along with Sanyo plant in Takasaki, Japan, that produces about 30 percent of all NiMH batteries worldwide and access to select Sanyo employees, all licenses, patents and other intellectual property related to its batteries to FDK and all these would help in the two-way preservation of competition and the commission's vote for this deal was 4-0.¹⁴

- A federal judge has rejected a proposed class action lawsuit against major mobile telecommunication providers, Verizon Wireless LLC, AT&T Mobility LLC, Sprint Nextel

¹² <http://www.google.com/press/admob/>; http://news.cnet.com/8301-30684_3-10393623-265.html?tag=mncol;txt

¹³ <http://www.afterdawn.com/news/archive/20545.cfm>

¹⁴ <http://www.law.com/jsp/law/international/LawArticleIntl.jsp?id=1202435811224&rss=newswire;>
http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/manufacturing/2009-11-24-panisonic-sanyo-merger_N.htm

Corp. and T-Mobile USA Inc. alleging that they conspired to fix prices for text messaging as the complaint did not contain facts sufficient to state a claim. He said the "lockstep price increases for individual text messages are more likely the result of individual decision-making in the best interests of the companies than a price-fixing conspiracy."

"During the period from 2005 through 2008, as the cost to transmit a text message decreased by 65 percent, each defendant increased its per-unit prices by 100 percent in two identical price increases, to the same exact penny in similar time frames," the complaint said. The judge said that while the allegation that they changed the price at the same time by the same margin may be true, but this does not necessarily result in a price fixing agreement, instead in a competitive market, there is all the more reason to follow a rival industry leader. "The other defendants then acted in their own best interests and raised their rates to that same level to recoup profits they were not realizing on other products on which there was active price competition," the judge said.¹⁵

- The US Department of Justice's (DoJ) anti-trust division has fined Taiwan's Chi Mei Optoelectronics, which has pleaded guilty, US \$220 million for fixing the price of thin-film transistor liquid crystal display panels. from Sept. 14, 2001, to Dec. 1, 2006. TFT-LCD panels are used in computer monitors and notebooks, televisions, mobile phones and other electronic devices. By the end of the conspiracy period, the worldwide market for TFT-LCD panels was valued at \$70 billion. The price fixing was done through conspiracy by agreeing during meetings, conversations and communications and exchange of information to charge prices of TFT-LCD panels at pre-determined levels and issuing price quotations in accordance with the agreements reached.¹⁶
- The DoJ has asked to review the \$ 30 billion proposed merger between Comcast, country's largest cable television operator that serves customers in 39 states and NBC Universal who owns movie studios, broadcast networks, cable networks, a huge stake in the online video service, Hulu, as well as 27 local broadcast stations that reach nearly one-third of U.S. households. Through this merger, Comcast would get bulk ownership of NBC. The issue in contention regarding this merger is the fact that Comcast would become a distributor and provider of entertainment and information which would in turn lead to the creation of a monopoly. An additional factor for concern is that Comcast is the country's largest cable provider, with nearly 24 million subscribers. The merger has been structured in such a way that Comcast after the merger would be the owner of 51% of the shares and General Electric, the holding company of NBC, would be entitled

¹⁵ <http://www.law360.com/articles/139927>; <http://freestatefoundation.blogspot.com/2009/12/getting-message-on-text-messaging.html>

¹⁶ http://www.justice.gov/atr/public/press_releases/2009/252936.htm; <http://en.sourcews.com/taiwan-lcd-producer-agrees-plead-guilty>

to 49% of the shareholding. Comcast would become the owner of all the competing channels such as Bravo, USA, SyFy, MSNBC, CNBC, and Oxygen, as well as the popular internet television site Hulu. Hulu is in direct competition with Comcast's streaming video site Fancast. Therefore, the DoJ is reviewing the merger again to ensure that there exists a healthy competition in the market.¹⁷

- A study has been published by the FTC showing that the lack of access to generic drugs caused by reverse settlement payments in the pharmaceutical industry, also known as "Pay-for-delay" patent litigation, could cost US consumers as much as US \$35 billion over 10 years. Through these agreements, the drug makers with big brand names pay their generic competitors to keep other cheap alternatives not under public purview. This can only harm the consumers as this leads to less choice and extremely high prices.

The study found that the number of agreements with payment and delay have increased from zero in 2004 to a record 19 agreements in Fiscal Year 2009. The study also found that settlement deals featuring payments by branded drug firms to generic competitors kept generics off the market for an average of 17 months longer than agreements that do not include a payment. The FTC renewed its call for legislation that would put an end to such patent settlements as they force the consumer to pay a higher price and forgo their medication and to stop them as a part of the health care reform bill.¹⁸

CANADA

- Canada and US both have relaxed the rules on Minimum Pricing policies but the suppliers with high market shares need to be watchful as they are willing to agree on such policies with dealers under the assumption that control over pricing in both countries is acceptable now, which is not the case. The recent amendments of criminal to civil provision regarding price maintenance now only empower the Tribunal to disallow a practice if it distorts or has an adverse effect on competition with minimum proof requirements. The law in Canada was earlier straight forward in respect of there being a criminal liability when tampering with price was induced, both by suppliers and dealers. The US Supreme Court in *Leegin*¹⁹ suggested that price maintenance does not always lead to anti-competitive practices.

Under the amended Section 76, "the Competition Tribunal, on application by the Commissioner of Competition or a directly affected private party (with leave of the tribunal), may prohibit the continuation of price maintenance if it finds that the conduct is having, has had or is likely to have an "adverse effect on competition in a market."

¹⁷ <http://www.freepress.net/node/75807>

¹⁸ <http://traderegulation.blogspot.com/>; <http://www.globalcompetitionreview.com/news/article/19857/>

¹⁹ *United States v. Colgate & Co.*, 250 U.S. 300

The disadvantage of this method is the risk of dealer coercion that can later result into price fixing. Dealers pressurizing suppliers to in turn pressurize other dealers to increase price may fall under the ambit of criminal price fixing. As of March 12, 2010, it will be *per se* criminal in Canada for competitors or potential competitors to agree among other things “to fix, maintain, increase or control” prices. Suppliers would also be liable who take part and help in such conspiracies. Maximum fines have been increased to \$25 million per offence and individuals may be sentenced to up to 14 years in jail.²⁰

- In June 2008, there were charges against 13 individuals and 11 companies accused of fixing the price of gas at pumps in Victoriaville, Thetford Mines, Magog and Sherbrooke, Quebec. Until now, ten individuals and six companies have pleaded guilty in this case, with fines totaling over \$2.7 million.²¹

The latest to plead guilty is the former owner of two service stations under the Esso banner in Sherbrooke, who has been sentenced to six months in jail in the community and was ordered to make a \$25,000 donation to a charitable organization. The individuals together have been sentenced to 54 months in jail and 150 hours of community service.

- Husky Energy Inc., one of Canada’s largest fully integrated energy companies, has entered into an agreement with Suncor Energy Inc. and Suncor Energy Products Inc. to acquire 98 retail outlets in Ontario, Canada. The acquisition brings Husky’s total network of petrol stations to 571 covering British Columbia to the Ontario/Quebec border. This acquisition represents incredible synergy between the production and refining assets. The Canadian Competition Bureau has cleared Husky Energy’s acquisition of 98 petrol stations from Suncor.²²

AUSTRALIA

- The Federal Court in Brisbane has fined two truck retailers and three individuals for price fixing and market sharing. It was found that between February 2005 and September 2006, the sales managers at Vanderfield, John McGuinn and Bavin Cherry, and Ross Goodwin, the sales manager of Sci-Fleet Motors entered into anti-competitive agreements concerning the sale of medium and light trucks in southeast Queensland.

²⁰ <http://www.lawyersweekly.ca/index.php?section=article&volume=29&number=26&article=3>

²¹ <http://www.bureaudelaconurrence.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/03168.html>;

<http://www.bureaudelaconurrence.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/03079.html>;

<http://www.globalcompetitionreview.com/news/article/19576/>

²² <http://www.npnweb.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=901D2CC3506F4C1187DF5BE4A8A2C0FF&nm=&type=news&mod=News&mid=9A02E3B96F2A415ABC72CB5F516B4C10&tier=3&nid=9DC538D8996F471E928932715E878BD4>

They breached the laws set by the Trade Practices Act and claimed that they were unacquainted with the legal repercussions of their actions.

Sci-Fleet Motors which sells trucks in Brisbane and Vanderfield which sells trucks in Toowoomba were fined \$500,000 each and the aforementioned individuals were fined \$30,000 each respectively. The companies were also further ordered to pay \$50,000 each in costs by the court.²³

SOUTH AFRICA

- Africa's biggest manufacturer of the material, Pretoria Portland Cement Ltd. (PPC), admitted that it had been part of a cement cartel and was given immunity from prosecution for cooperating with antitrust authorities. PPC confirmed that it shared the details of the sales information and it would stop the practice. The commission said that PPC, in its application for leniency for market sharing, confirmed the existence of a cartel to divide markets among the four cement producers. The four cement producers had an agreement to divide the cement market among them to maintain the market shares that each producer held prior to 1996 when a lawful cement cartel existed and was regulated by exemptions to the competition legislation.

It was observed that the former employees had initiated a practice of sharing sales information. The present employees carried on with the same practice but it was held that they would not be held guilty as they considered it to be an acceptable norm. The Competition Commission also confirmed that it has granted PPC conditional leniency under the Competition Act, in exchange for PPC's complete and truthful disclosure of all cartel activities between PPC and its competitors.²⁴

- The much anticipated ruling of the Competition Tribunal will soon be delivered on the contention whether two separate firms, with a common shareholder, can be classes as the so-called single economic entity defence subject to the claims of collusion.

The facts of the case were relating to the furniture and bedding foam market. The players in the market, Loungefoam and Vitafoam had indulged in market division by allocating consumers and price fixing regarding the selling price of foam that is used for manufacturing furniture and the cost at which the raw material was purchased from suppliers.

The issue of common shareholding arises as Steinhoff International Ltd (Steinhoff) owns 47% of the shares in Loungefoam and 100% of the shares in Vitafoam, together with

²³ <http://www.ibtimes.com.au/articles/20091105/truck-retailers-fined-1m-due-price-fixing.htm>;

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/business/truck-retailers-fined-1m-for-price-fixing-20091104-hxaf.html>

²⁴ <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=anixKoiO.Shs>; <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-11-ppc-confesses-to-being-part-of-cement-cartel>

other factors relating to how the businesses are run. This results in the parties being part of a single economic entity within the Steinhoff Group, although Steinhoff does not own the majority of shares in Loungefoam. Single economic entities cannot be found guilty of collusion as such firms cannot conspire with themselves.²⁵

- The latest development in South Africa has been the judgment passed by the High Court where the SCA has ruled that the Competition Authorities have the authority both to consider the complaint and to decide the preliminary question of jurisdiction. This began in 2004, where the Commission referred a complaint against Telkom to the Tribunal alleging that Telkom had failed to provide telecommunications facilities to a number of Value Added Network Services (VANS) providers.

Instead of defending the allegations in the Tribunal, Telkom straight away launched proceedings in the High Court to set aside the Commission's referral, *inter alia*, claiming that the competition authorities did not have jurisdiction to consider matters that were subject to the sector specific regulator for telecommunications. This was decided in the favour of the competition authority. However, it should be noted that the SCA ruling deals expressly with concurrent jurisdiction under the repealed Telecommunications Act, with the position under the current Electronic Communications Act remaining unclear.²⁶

- South Africa's Competition Tribunal has approved the merger of grocery wholesalers in Port Elizabeth, Masscash Holdings and Finro Enterprises after the Competition Commission recommended to block the deal earlier this year. After the hearing, the Tribunal ultimately concluded that the merger will not lead to a substantial prevention or lessening of competition in the wholesale grocery market in Port Elizabeth. The Tribunal's reasons for its decision have not been released and will be handed down in due course. Post merger, Masscash, will acquire 75% stake in Finro while Finro would be entitled to 25%. There won't be many changes in the management as the nature of the services to the residents would remain the same.²⁷
- SA's fuel companies through South African Petroleum Industry Association (Sapia) have applied for a exemption for a period of six years from competition legislation that forbids industry players from entering into anti-competitive agreements. This step was taken due to Jet fuel shortages. According to a notice dated December 18, the exemption will maintain the continuity and stability of liquid fuels supply. Fuel industry players have emphasised it is crucial for them to hold discussions on supply security matters.

²⁵ <http://www.cliffedekkerhofmeyr.com/news/files/CDH-Competition-Alert-December-2009.pdf>

²⁶ <http://www.cliffedekkerhofmeyr.com/news/files/CDH-Competition-Alert-December-2009.pdf>;
<http://www.globalcompetitionreview.com/news/article/19462/>

²⁷ <http://www.fastmoving.co.za/news-archive/retailer-news/competition-tribunal-approves-finro-acquisition>;
<http://www.theherald.co.za/article.aspx?id=475849>

Sapia represents BP Southern Africa, Engen Petroleum, Chevron SA, Sasol , Shell SA Marketing, Total SA and national oil company PetroSA. The application includes practices such as co-loading and co-freighting of crude oil. This would pave the way for the co- ordination of crude oil and unfinished liquid fuels imports "for the operation of port access, discharge and loading facilities. The companies will also be able to co-ordinate the use of infrastructure for transport of liquid fuels to depots and terminals. This will mainly relate to the use of the Transnet pipeline. A pipeline is a safer, cheaper way to transport fuel products from coastal refineries to the inland market. The companies want to be able to exchange information without violating any provisions of competition law. The Commission has not yet agreed to such a proposition, the interested parties have a period of 20 days to put in their objections.²⁸

²⁸ <http://allafrica.com/stories/200912290041.html>; <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/oil-industry-wants-competition-exemption-to-ensure-2010-jet-fuel-supplies-2009-08-26>