



P/2001/211

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### KIM HOWELLS ACCEPTS UNDERTAKINGS FROM NUTRECO

Kim Howells, Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, announced today that he had accepted undertakings from Nutreco Holding NV (Nutreco) in relation to their proposed acquisition of Hydro Seafood GSP Limited (GSP). His decision is in accordance with the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading (DGFT).

Dr Howells referred the merger to the Competition Commission in July 2000. Dr Howells announced on 22 December that he decided not to permit the merger in accordance with the CC's findings that it would be against the public interest and with the advice of the DGFT. He asked the DGFT to seek suitable undertakings from Nutreco to prevent the adverse effects identified by the CC.

A copy of the signed undertakings is attached to this notice. These require Nutreco not to acquire an interest in GSP or in any company having control of GSP without the consent of the Secretary of State.

#### Notes for editors

1. The merger was referred to the Competition Commission on 17 July 2000 (under Sections 64 and 69(2) of the Fair Trading Act 1973) for investigation and report (see DTI Press Notice P/2000/495). The CC submitted its report to the Secretary of State on 16 November 2000.

Dr Howells announced his decision to prohibit the merger, in accordance with the findings of the CC and the advice of the Director General of Fair Trading (DGFT) on 22 December 2000 (see DTI Press Notice 2000/867).

2. Under Section 93A of the Fair Trading Act 1973, undertakings given following a CC report are enforceable through the courts. Under Section 88 of the Act they must be published.

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