

**REFERENCE RELATING TO THE ANTICIPATED ACQUISITION
BY AKZO NOBEL N.V. OF METLAC HOLDING S.R.L.**

**Notice of provisional findings made under Rule 10.3
of the Competition Commission Rules of Procedure**

On 23 May 2012, the Office of Fair Trading, in exercise of its duty under section 33(1) of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) referred to the Competition Commission (CC) the anticipated acquisition by Akzo Nobel N.V. of Metlac Holding S.r.l. for investigation and report within a period ending 6 November 2012.

Provisional findings

1. The CC inquiry group (the Group) appointed to consider this reference has made the following provisional findings on the statutory questions it has to decide pursuant to section 36(1) of the Act:
 - (a) arrangements are in progress or contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation; and
 - (b) the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within any market or markets in the UK for goods or services.
2. The Group's provisional findings and its reasons are set out in full in the provisional findings report, a copy of which is published on the [CC website](#) (see note below).

The next steps

3. Anyone wishing to comment on the provisional findings is invited to do so in writing to the Group; particularly if there are reasons that these provisional findings should not become final (or, as the case may be, should be varied).
4. All comments and reasons should be received by Matt Weighill, the Inquiry Manager, on behalf of the Group by no later than 10 October 2012.
5. The Group will consider any such comments and reasons in making its final decision on the statutory questions and actions.

*(Signed) ROGER WITCOMB
Group Chairman
20 September 2012*

Note: A copy of this notice and the summary of the provisional findings report will be placed on the [CC website](#) on 20 September 2012. The CC proposes to publish the provisional findings report on its website by 21 September 2012. The published version of the provisional findings report will not contain any information which the Group considers should be excluded from the report, having regard to the three considerations set out in section 244 of the Act. These omissions are indicated by [☒].