

The notification process to the French Competition Authority of the taking over of the exclusive control of Monoprix by Casino continues

Casino formally notified to the French Competition Authority the taking over of the exclusive control of Monoprix on 7 January 2013. The first phase of the case review process was initiated on 6 February 2013, when the French Competition Authority declared the documentation complete.

As expected, the French Competition Authority stated, at the end of the first phase of review on 12 March 2013, that the case required a thorough examination, called phase 2, which will allow Casino to put forward all its arguments to the French Competition Authority.

Groupe Casino notes the intention of the French Competition Authority to take the opportunity of phase 2 to estimate the competitive pressure exerted on the stores located in Paris by other food retail channels as well as by the hypermarkets in the near suburbs.

The opening of the phase 2 is a required step to the taking over of the exclusive control of Monoprix by Casino. This phase should take a few months, within the mandatory regulatory timeframe, and the decision of the French Competition Authority should be obtained, as previously disclosed, in the summer.

ANALYST AND INVESTOR CONTACTS

Régine GAGGIOLI – Tel: +33 (0)1 53 65 64 17
rgaggioli@groupe-casino.fr

or

+33 (0)1 53 65 64 18

IR_Casino@groupe-casino.fr

GROUP EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

PRESS CONTACTS

Aziza BOUSTER

Tel: +33 (0)1 53 65 24 78

Mob: +33 (0)6 08 54 28 75

abouster@groupe-casino.fr

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Grégoire LUCAS

Tel: +33 (0)6 71 60 02 02

glucas@image7.fr