



## News Release

10/10

12 February 2010

### **CC TO RECONSIDER TICKETMASTER/LIVE NATION MERGER**

The Competition Commission (CC) is to reconsider and make a new decision in the Ticketmaster/Live Nation merger inquiry, following an [Order](#) of the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT).

In its report [published](#) in December last year, the CC cleared the merger, concluding it would not result in a substantial lessening of competition in the market for live music ticket retailing or in any other market in the UK, including live music promotion and live music venues.

Following a challenge to the decision made by CTS Eventim AG (Eventim), the CC agreed in a hearing at the CAT on Wednesday (10 February) to the decision in its report being quashed and the matter being referred back to it to reconsider and make a new decision. The CC agreed to this as the quickest and most appropriate way of dealing with the matter. The CC will now treat its December report as further provisional findings and has today re-published it, seeking views from interested parties on those findings within 21 days, in accordance with its usual practice.

The CC has three months from the date of the Order to make a new decision, giving it a deadline of 11 May 2010, although it will aim to complete its work significantly quicker than that.

Both Ticketmaster and Live Nation operate in the live music and entertainment industry in the UK. Ticketmaster is a ticketing agent, whilst Live Nation is a live music promoter and venue operator. Both Ticketmaster and Live Nation are headquartered in the USA.

The merger of Ticketmaster and Live Nation completed (subject to conditions) in the USA on 25 January 2010 following approval from the Department of Justice. This means that during the period of reconsideration the CC will be concerned with a completed merger, rather than an anticipated merger.

The further provisional findings report is now available on the CC website at: [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk).

## Notes for editors

1. The CC is an independent public body, which carries out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries.
2. The Enterprise Act 2002 empowers the Office of Fair Trading to refer to the CC completed or proposed mergers for investigation and report which create or enhance a 25 per cent share of supply in the UK (or a substantial part thereof) or where the UK turnover associated with the enterprise being acquired is over £70 million.
3. The members of the Ticketmaster/Live Nation Inquiry Group are: Christopher Clarke (Chairman), John Longworth, Jeremy Peat and Richard Taylor.
4. Further information on this inquiry, including the terms of reference and other key documents, as well as on the CC and its procedures, including its policy on the provision of information and the disclosure of evidence, can be obtained from the CC website at: [www.competition-commission.org.uk](http://www.competition-commission.org.uk).
5. Enquiries should be directed by email to [Rory Taylor](#) or [John Park](#) or by ringing 020 7271 0242.