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Conference

THE FUTURE OF THE BLOCK EXEMPTION FOR FRANCHISE-AGREEMENTS

May 21, 1997; Dusseldorf / Neuss, Germany

The policies of the European Community relating to competition determine the economic scope within vertical distribution more than ever before. Until now, franchise systems have found a tried and true framework for realizing their business successes under the Block Exemption for Franchise Agreements.

The regulation, which expires at the end of 1999, is already being examined by the Commission. The future of Block Exemptions in front of a background of other vertical distribution structures in Europe is undergoing broad analysis and discussion.

The newly-released Green Paper now invites all affected and interested business circles to deal with the future regulations for vertical restraints in detail, and to make a statement on four options.

For each franchisor, the results of these discussions, which are by no means restricted to legal matters, will soon have a concrete effect on the legal contents of his Franchise Agreements. Only a short time remains for a real chance to be actively involved in the formulation of this new framework for Franchising.

In association with the renowned Academy of European Law Trier, which is supported by the European Union, the German Franchise Institute is offering a suitable forum for a timely examination of the significant challenge of the Commission.

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