

Brussels, 10th March 1998

Commission approves agreements between the European and the Korean semiconductor industries to prevent anti-dumping conflicts

Mr Karel Van Miert, Commissioner responsible for competition policy, has approved two agreements entered into by the European Electronic Component Manufacturers Association (EECA), the Korea Semiconductor Industry Association (KSIA) and their respective member companies. The agreements provide for the creation of a data collection and maintenance system for certain semiconductors. Their sole purpose is the expeditious resolution of anti-dumping procedures.

The products covered under the agreements are Dynamic Random Access Memories (DRAMs) and Flash Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memories (Flash EPROMs).

The participating manufacturers, both in Europe and in Korea, will collect their company-specific data on cost of production and sales prices for DRAMs and Flash EPROMs and supply the data to an independent body. Further details of the notifications were published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 13 December 1997 (OJ No C 378/5 of 13.12.97).

The Commission found that the agreements did not restrict or distort competition therefore cleared them by an administrative letter on the understanding that :

- the company-specific data collected on costs of production and sales prices for DRAMs and, eventually, for Flash EPROMs, will be kept strictly confidential and that only the European Commission or the Korean anti-dumping authorities will have access to the data, once an anti-dumping procedure is initiated and
- neither the associations or their member companies will exchange prices and data among themselves or discuss price development with the purpose of avoiding future anti-dumping proceedings.