the effect of mutual recognition. Lastly, but not least, it makes for more rational use of the resources needed for authorisation and monitoring of medicinal products by eliminating the duplication of evaluation that characterised the former system.

However, the role of public authorities at national and Community level is confined to creating appropriate economic and regulatory conditions, and it is therefore up to economic operators to make the most of the Single Market. In such a context it is of the utmost importance that the pharmaceutical companies become fully integrated into the new legal and regulatory environment and duly take into account in their different projects and commercial strategies, the new 'rules of the game'.

The Member States have been diligent in putting into place Single Market legislation and applying Community guidelines on the development of medicinal products. However, divergent interpretations within national administrations, a certain unwillingness to rely on other Member States' scientific evaluation and additional lengthy national administrative procedures (issuance of administrative decisions) have prevented the full benefit of the new procedures from being realised. These delays at national level continue to limit the Single Market's positive contribution to public and patient access to medicinal products.

In order to remedy this situation and more generally to improve the functioning of the procedures, modifications of the current legal texts could be needed and this will have to be addressed in the course of the overall review of the new system which is due to take place in the year 2000. In order to prepare this exercise, the Commission looks forward to receiving contributions from the national administrations, from the EMEA and all other interested parties (consumers' and patients' associations, pharmaceutical companies, industry federations, etc.).

Non-opposition to a notified concentration

(Case No IV/M.1218 — Packaging International BV/NV Koninklijke KNP BT)

(98/C 229/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 3 July 1998, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the common market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. The full text of the decision is only available in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

— as a paper version through the sales offices of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (see list on the last page),

— in electronic form in the 'CEN' version of the CELEX database, under document number 398M1218. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law; for more information concerning subscriptions please contact:

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