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PRESS RELEASE

The HCC issued a statement of objections with regard to agreements of exclusive satellite broadcasting concluded between MULTICHOICE HELLAS S.A. (member of FORTHNET S.A. group) and the majority of free nationwide-broadcasting private TV stations (following a complaint by the Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation S.A.)

The Hellenic Competition Commission convenes on 3rd of February 2012 to examine, following the issuing of a statement of objections, whether the exclusive satellite broadcasting agreements between MULTICHOICE HELLAS S.A. (member of FORTHNET S.A. group) and the free nationwide-broadcasting private TV stations infringe Articles 1 and 2 of Law 703/77 as were applicable (currently, Articles 1 and 2 of Law 3959/2011) and Articles 101 and 102 of the TFEU.

According to the statement of objections, the said exclusivity agreements for satellite broadcasting with individual nationwide-broadcasting stations, each concluded at a different time (from 1997 to 2011), aimed at raising entry barriers to actual or potential competitors, thus hindering the entry and development of alternative digital and, in particular, satellite platforms.

It is noted that the statement of objections is not binding for the Competition Commission that will decide on the case after it has taken into consideration the totality of evidence and the arguments to be submitted by the undertakings concerned.