



TOTAL (FR) – PETROFINA (BE) MERGER

Zurich, June 9, 1999: STOXX Limited, the operating company of the Dow Jones STOXXSM indexes, today gave additional information for the recently announced treatment of the merger between the French energy company Total (FR0000120271) and the Belgian energy company Petrofina (BE0003564722) to form the new French energy company TotalFina (FR).

Subject to the shareholders' confirmation of this merger, which is scheduled for June 11, 1999, TotalFina (FR) will succeed and replace Petrofina (BE0003564722) in the Dow Jones EURO STOXX 50SM blue-chip index and in all the relevant Dow Jones STOXXSM indexes, effective June 16, 1999. In addition, Total (FR0000120271) and Petrofina (BE0003564722) will be deleted from all the relevant Dow Jones STOXXSM indexes, effective June 16, 1999.

The replacement of Petrofina (BE0003564722) in the Dow Jones EURO STOXX 50SM blue-chip index by its successor TotalFina (FR), instead of the largest non-index component from the latest relevant monthly blue-chip selection list, was decided by the STOXX Limited Supervisory Board at its meeting on June 7, 1999 in Frankfurt. This decision follows the pattern used in the demerger of the British company BAT, where the successor company Allied Zurich was replacing BAT in the Dow Jones STOXX 50SM blue-chip index. Both decisions minimized the need for index portfolios to be restructured and are therefore beneficial to all parties who invest in the Dow Jones STOXXSM indexes. *

In view of the growing frequency of cross-border corporate mergers in the European market, the STOXX Limited Supervisory Board also decided at the same meeting that in all similar cases of merger / demerger in future, which cause deletions in a blue-chip index and, if at the same time the succeeding company would qualify for that blue-chip index, then the successor replaces the deleted company in that blue-chip index. In such cases the largest non-index component from the latest relevant monthly blue-chip selection list shall not be chosen.

This decision on the rules will be integrated in the forthcoming edition of the "Guide to the Dow Jones STOXXSM Indexes", which is in preparation and scheduled for release in July 1999.

* NOTE: This decision is in line with the "Guide to the Dow Jones STOXXSM Indexes" (Version 2.0, February 1999, Section 3.5). It states that: "In exceptional cases, a company can be either added to or deleted from the (blue-chip) selection list by the (STOXX Limited) Supervisory Board."

The "Guide to the Dow Jones STOXXSM Indexes" (Version 2.0, February 1999) can be obtained from STOXX Limited (e-mail: stoxx@stoxx.com) and downloaded from the STOXX Limited website (www.stoxx.com). The latest monthly blue-chip selection lists for the Dow Jones STOXX 50SM and Dow Jones EURO STOXX 50SM indexes can be found on the STOXX Limited website (www.stoxx.com).

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