



MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT **23 MARCH 2011**

Competition Authority clears the merger of Greencore and Northern Foods

The Competition Authority has cleared the proposed merger of Greencore Group plc and Northern Foods plc. The transaction was notified by the parties under the Competition Act 2002 on 7 January 2011.

The Authority's decision to clear the transaction followed an intensive investigation, which included obtaining the views of customers and competitors of Greencore and Northern Foods across a range of product markets in the State.

The Authority has formed the view that the proposed transaction will not lead to a substantial lessening of competition in any markets for goods or services in the State. The Authority will publish a public version of its determination on its website (www.tca.ie) no later than 22 May 2011 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

Notes

Greencore Group plc has two divisions: Convenience Foods and Ingredients & Related Property. The Convenience Foods division supplies retailers in the State across a range of products including "Food to Go" products (i.e., sandwiches, meal salads, and sushi), chilled ready meals, chilled soups and sauces, ambient sauces and pickles, cakes and desserts, and Yorkshire puddings. Greencore's Ingredients & Related Property division comprises Trilby Trading and Premier Molasses. Greencore also has an associate holding in United Molasses (Ireland). Trilby Trading is an importer and distributor of bulk vegetable oils to the food industry in the State. Premier Molasses and United Molasses (Ireland) are suppliers of imported liquid feed ingredients in the State.

Northern Foods has two divisions: Chilled and Branded. The Chilled division manufactures own-label "Food to Go" products and chilled ready meals products which it sells to retailers in the State. The Branded division manufactures frozen fish (*Donegal Catch*), pizzas (*Goodfellas*, *Green Isle*), pies (*Hollands and McDougalls*), biscuits (*Fox's*) and Christmas puddings (*Matthew Walker*).

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