

THE TAKEOVER PANEL

OFFER BY
LAFARGE MINERALS LTD ("LAFARGE")
FOR
BLUE CIRCLE INDUSTRIES PLC ("BLUE CIRCLE")
OFFER TIMETABLE EXTENDED

Rule 31.9 of the Code requires that all significant financial information should be published by an offeree company by the 39th day following the posting of the offer document. Normally, therefore, the last day for publication by Blue Circle of such information in the context of the offer by Lafarge would have been 20 March 2000. However, the Panel Executive has been informed that the decision of the European Commission as to whether the offer by Lafarge should be subject to further investigation under Council Regulation (EEC) 4064/89 will not be taken prior to 20 March.

In these circumstances, the Panel Executive has ruled that "Day 39" would be deemed to be the second day after the announcement of that decision.

"Day 46" (the last date for posting a revised offer) and "Day 60" (the date by which an offer must become unconditional as to acceptances) will also be extended by the same number of days. The next expiry date of the offer by Lafarge will not be affected by this extension.

14 March 2000