

incomplete, it will require the information which should have been provided to be supplied within a period fixed by it and the time limits will then begin to run only after receipt of the missing information.

The Commission is required to take a decision on the notified concentration within one month following receipt of the notification or of additional information requested. The period may be increased to six weeks if a Member State informs the Commission that the proposed concentration would be likely to lead to or strengthen a dominant position in a distinct market in a Member State, in which case the Commission must decide whether to deal with the case itself or to refer it to that Member State with a view to the application of its national competition law.

If the Commission decides to initiate proceedings regarding the concentration, the final decision must be taken within not more than four months from the date when proceedings are initiated.

#### 1.2 Nature of Information sought under notification systems and confidentiality considerations

Under the short form information filing in Canada, the parties must describe the transaction, their business and quantify their lines of business, including lists of principal suppliers and customers and sales and purchases to and from them, financial information for the previous two years and copies of all relevant documents relating to the transaction.

The long form notification must include in addition: a description of the business and lines of business of certain affiliates; description of the principal categories of products manufactured, supplied or purchased by the parties and their affiliates; disclosure of holdings of more than 20 per cent of the voting shares of other Canadian enterprises; copies of all reports and data prepared to assist directors; and a summary description of any significant changes in the business involved in the transaction which have been agreed.

A number of provisions in the Competition Act have been introduced to mitigate some of the filing burdens for reasons of confidentiality, lack of knowledge or irrelevance.

As regards confidentiality, provision has been made in the Act for the protection of information submitted to the Director. Under section 29, all persons involved in the enforcement of the Act are prohibited from communicating any information obtained