

the Postal Service Fund at the U.S. Treasury. Therefore, the user's money is protected in the unlikely event of a manufacturer bankruptcy.

### **B. The Final Postal Service Plan for the Retirement of Manually Reset Postage Meters**

1. Effective February 1, 2000, new placements of manually reset electronic postage meters ceased. The decision applied to new customers as well as existing meter users. All meter manufacturers were notified of this policy and have complied.

2. The Postal Service will allow a lease extension for a manually set electronic meter up to December 31, 2001, for any lease that expires during calendar year 2000. No other lease extensions are permitted by the Postal Service. Manufacturers or users cannot avoid meter retirement by the manipulation of leases.

3. Some users currently have a lease for a manually reset electronic meter that expires after December 31, 2000. Any meter covered under such a lease may be used until the end of the calendar quarter following the quarter in which the lease expires, at which time the meter must be retired and withdrawn from service. This date is called the "retirement date." For example, any meter with a lease expiring during the first quarter of 2001 (January, February, or March 2001) must be retired before the end of the second quarter of 2001 and will have a retirement date of June 30, 2001. This timetable will give all manually set postage meter users at least three months to replace the meter with a remote set meter and will consolidate retirement dates.

4. All retired meters must be withdrawn from active service records immediately upon the retirement date following lease expiration. Manufacturers must process PS Form 3601-C, Postage Meter Activity Report, to withdraw the meter effective the retirement date.

5. Retired meters must be physically returned to the manufacturer within 30 business days after the retirement date. The use of a retired meter in the time period between the retirement date and when the meter is returned to the manufacturer may result in the cancellation of the user registration.

6. Official notification to users explaining this plan will be sent directly by the Manager, Postage Technology Management, Postal Service Headquarters. No other correspondence will be considered to be official.

7. The manager of Postage Technology Management reserves the right to review

manufacturer correspondence to these meter users prior to distribution.

8. After each retirement date, the Postal Service may review meter manufacturers' lease records in comparison with meter withdrawals, to ensure that all meters that should have been retired were retired.

9. Any manually reset electronic postage meter that is capable of remote meter setting must be either converted to remote meter setting or withdrawn from service. The function that allows manual resetting must be disabled.

10. Given the rapid pace of new technological developments for secure postage meter technology, meter manufacturers should not offer, and customers should not accept, leases for postage meter equipment of more than five (5) years' duration.

11. The following meter models may be affected by this plan. Any postage meter that is taken to a post office for resetting is affected by this plan and must be retired, even if it is not included on the following list.

#### *Ascom Hasler*

1441  
1441X  
1446  
1446X  
16410  
16413  
16413X  
16463  
16463X  
17563  
17563X  
4280  
64280  
741  
741X  
7410  
7410X  
7413  
7413X  
7560  
7560X  
7563  
7563X

#### *Francotyp-Postalia*

7000  
7100  
7200

#### *Neopost*

9212  
9212G  
9248  
9248G  
9252  
9252G  
9257  
9257G  
9258  
9258G

9252U  
9257U  
9258U  
9258UG  
9267  
9268  
9268G  
9282M  
9287GM  
9287M  
9288GM  
9288M  
9512GM  
9512M  
9547GM  
9547M  
9548GM  
9548M

#### *Pitney Bowes*

6501  
6502  
6513  
B901  
E101  
E102

#### **Stanley F. Mires,**

*Chief Counsel, Legislative.*

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**BILLING CODE 7710-12-P**

## **RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**

### **Determination of Quarterly Rate of Excise Tax for Railroad Retirement Supplemental Annuity Program**

In accordance with directions in section 3221(c) of the Railroad Retirement Tax Act (26 U.S.C., 3221(c)), the Railroad Retirement Board has determined that the excise tax imposed by such section 3221(c) on every employer, with respect to having individuals in his employ, for each work-hour for which compensation is paid by such employer for services rendered to him during the quarter beginning January 1, 2001, shall be at the rate of 26 cents.

In accordance with directions in section 15(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, the Railroad Retirement Board has determined that for the quarter beginning January 1, 2001, 39.7 percent of the taxes collected under sections 3221(b) and 3221(c) of the Railroad Retirement Tax Act shall be credited to the Railroad Retirement Account and 60.3 percent of the taxes collected under such sections 3211(b) and 3221(c) plus 100 percent of the taxes collected under section 3221(d) of the Railroad Retirement Tax Act shall be credited to the Railroad Retirement Supplemental Account.

Dated: December 1, 2000.

By Authority of the Board.

**Beatrice Ezerski,**

*Secretary to the Board.*

[FR Doc. 00-31675 Filed 12-12-00; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

[SEC File No. 270-265; OMB Control No. 3235-0273]

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

*Upon Written Request Copies Available From:* Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filing and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for extension of the previously approved collection of information discussed below.

- Rule 17Ad-10 Prompt Posting of Certificate Detail to Master Securityholder Files; Maintenance of Accurate Securityholder Files and Control Book; and Retention of Certificate Detail

Rule 17Ad-10, 17 CFR 240.17Ad-10, under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, requires a registered transfer agent to create and maintain minimum information on securityholder's ownership of an issue of securities for which it performs transfer agent functions, including the purchase, transfer and redemptions of securities. In addition, the rule also requires transfer agents that maintain securityholder records to keep certificate detail that has been cancelled from those records for a minimum of six years and to maintain and keep current an accurate record of the number of shares or principle dollar amount of debt securities that the issuer has authorized to be outstanding (a "control book"). These recordkeeping requirements assist in the creation and maintenance of accurate securityholder records, the ability to research errors, and ensure the transfer agent is aware of the number of securities that are properly authorized by the issuer, thereby avoiding over issuance.

Given that there are 1,093 transfer agents currently registered, the staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary for each transfer agent

to comply with Rule 17Ad-10 is approximately 20 hours per year, totaling 21,860 hours industry-wide. The average cost is approximately \$20 per hour, with the industry-wide cost estimated at approximately \$437,200. However, the information required by Rule 17Ad-10 generally is already maintained by registered transfer agents. The amount of time devoted to compliance with Rule 17Ad-10 varies according to differences in business activity.

The retention period for the recordkeeping requirements under Rule 17Ad-10 is six years for certificate detail that has been cancelled and to maintain and keep current an accurate record of the number of shares or principle amount of debt securities that the issuer has authorized to be outstanding. The recordkeeping requirement under Rule 17Ad-10 is mandatory to ensure accurate securityholder records and to assist the Commission and other regulatory agencies with monitoring transfer agents and ensuring compliance with the rule. This rule does not involve the collection of confidential information. Persons should note that an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

Written comments regarding the above information should be directed to the following persons: (i) Desk Officer for the Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10102, New Executive Office Building, DC 20503; and (ii) Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Directive, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Comments must be submitted to OMB within 30 days of this notice.

Dated: December 5, 2000.

**Margaret H. McFarland,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-31678 Filed 12-12-00; 8:45 am]

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 24786; International Series Release No. 1239/812-12334]

### Telco Finance N.V.

December 7, 2000.

**AGENCY:** Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission").

**ACTION:** Notice of application for exemption under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Act") from all provisions of the Act.

**SUMMARY:** Applicant requests an order under section 6(c) of the Act exempting applicant from all provisions of the Act. The order would permit applicant to sell certain debt securities and use the proceeds to finance the business activities of Telsim Mobile Telekomunikayson Hizmetleri A.S. ("Telsim").

*Filing Date:* The application was filed on November 29, 2000.

*Hearing or Notification of Hearing:* An order granting the application will be issued unless the SEC orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing by writing to the SEC's Secretary and serving applicant with a copy of the request, personally or by mail. Hearing requests should be received by the SEC by 5:30 p.m. on January 2, 2001, and should be accompanied by proof of service on applicant, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by writing to the SEC's Secretary.

**ADDRESSES:** Secretary, SEC, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549. Applicant, c/o Intertrust Management (Antilles) N.V., Attn: Robert R. Stroeve, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bruce R. MacNeil, Senior Counsel, at (202) 942-0634, or Nadya B. Roytblat, Assistant Director, at (202) 942-5064 (Division of Investment Management, Office of Investment Company Regulation).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The following is a summary of the application. The complete application may be obtained for a fee at the SEC's Public Reference Branch, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549 (tel. 202-942-8090).

### Applicant's Representations

1. Applicant is a Netherlands Antilles limited liability corporation. Applicant was organized specifically to raise funds for the operations of Telsim by issuing debt securities ("Notes") and lending the proceeds to Telsim. Telsim is a joint stock company organized under the laws of the Republic of Turkey and is a cellular telecommunications company in Turkey.

2. Telsim has determined to raise capital through applicant because the