



PRESS RELEASE, 7 October 2005

Finnish Competition Authority initiates further proceedings of SOK's acquisition of Spar Finland

On 7 September Axfood and SOK Finland signed an agreement on the sale of Axfood's entire shareholding in Spar Finland Abp. Axfood is the largest shareholder of Spar Finland, with 75.2% of the votes and 69.3% of the capital.

SOK's acquisition is conditional upon approval by the Finnish Competition Authority.

Today, 7 October, the Finnish Competition Authority announced that it is initiating further proceedings of SOK's purchase of the shares in Spar Finland.

Axfood estimates that the sale of the shares will be carried out in October 2005.

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Axfood AB conducts retail trade through the wholly owned store chains Hemköp, Willys and Willys hemma, comprising roughly 230 stores, and wholesale trade through Dagab and Axfood Närlivs. In addition, Axfood collaborates with a number of proprietor-run stores that are tied to Axfood through agreements. These include stores within the Hemköp chain as well as stores run under the Handlar'n and Tempo profiles. In all, Axfood collaborates with over 500 proprietor-run stores. Axfood also has 300 stores in Finland, of which 100 are wholly owned, and the rest are run by independent retailers. Axfood is listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange O-list, Attract 40. Axel Johnson AB is the principal owner, with approximately 45% of the shares.