



Total presenta reclamación arbitral contra SCH

Paris, 13 de octubre de 2003.

Las acciones iniciadas por el Banco Santander Central Hispano (SCH) en las pasadas semanas han mostrado desacuerdos persistentes entre SCH y Total sobre los efectos, de tener alguno, de la Ley 26/2003, de 17 de julio, sobre sus relaciones contractuales. Ante estas circunstancias, para proteger sus derechos, Total ha presentado hoy reclamación arbitral contra SCH ante el Instituto de Arbitraje de los Países Bajos en La Haya, de conformidad con lo previsto en las cláusulas arbitrales de los acuerdos entre SCH y Total.

Como se indicó a la CNMV el 10 de octubre de 2003, Total reitera, igualmente, su deseo de proceder a la inmediata liquidación de Somaen Dos, S.L. a fin de aclarar la posición de las sociedades accionistas de Cepsa y contribuir a la transparencia del mercado.



TOTAL

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Total files arbitration claim against SCH

Paris, October 13, 2003 - The actions initiated by Banco Santander Cent Hispano (SCH) in the past weeks have shown persistent disagreement between SCH and Total regarding the effect, if any, of the Spanish Law 26/2003 of July 17, 2003 on their contractual relations. Given the circumstances, in order to preserve its rights, Total filed arbitration claim against SCH today with the Netherlands Arbitration Institute in The Hague, accordance with the arbitration provisions of the agreements between SCH and Total.

As indicated to the CNMV on October 10th, 2003 Total reiterates, as well, willingness to proceed with the immediate liquidation of the holding company Somaen Dos S.L., in order to clarify the positions of Cepsa's corporate shareholders and to contribute to the transparency of the market.

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Total is the fourth largest oil and gas company in the world with operations in more than 120 countries. Total's activities cover the whole energy chain of the petroleum industry: exploration, oil and gas production, refining and marketing, trading and power generation. The Group is also a major player in chemicals through its chemicals branch, Atofina. Total has 121,000 employees worldwide. More information can be found on the company's website: www.total.com