

# Press Release

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Pages 2

**klöckner & co**

multi metal distribution

## French anti-trust authority fines French steel distributors

**Duisburg, December 16, 2008** – The French anti-trust authority (DGCCRF) announced today that it has imposed fines totaling almost €600 million on KDI SAS (a subsidiary of Klöckner & Co SE), members of the Arcelor group, Descours et Cabaud, Morel and other steel distributors in France. The companies were accused of taking part in anti-competitive price-fixings from 1999 to 2004.

The company and its legal advisers maintain that the fine of €169 million imposed on KDI SAS is unjustifiably high. Contrary to its previous practice, the French anti-trust authority obviously used global sales of Klöckner & Co as the basis for the fine's calculation, even though the violations were committed exclusively by the French subsidiary, KDI SAS, and only affected the French market. For this reason, KDI SAS will appeal the fine with the aim of significantly reducing the amount and of obtaining a suspension of payment until a final judgment has been rendered.

The fine will negatively impact the 2008 group results of Klöckner & Co SE by a total of €79 million. Reserves had been made in the amount of €20 million. In addition, today's Klöckner & Co SE (the former acquisition vehicle of private equity investors Lindsay Goldberg & Bessemer) possesses a compensation claim totaling €70 million towards the previous owners of the Klöckner & Co group resulting from the sale of the group in 2005.

### About Klöckner & Co:

Klöckner & Co is the largest producer-independent distributor of steel and metal products in the European and North American markets combined. The core business of the Klöckner & Co Group is the storage and distribution of steel and non-ferrous metals. About 210,000 active customers are supplied through more than 260 distribution locations in 15 countries in Europe and North America. During the financial year 2007, the Company achieved sales of approximately €6.3 billion with more than 10,000 employees.

The shares of Klöckner & Co SE are admitted to trading on the official market segment (*Amtlicher Markt*) of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (*Frankfurter Wertpapierbörse*) with simultaneous admission to the sub-segment (Prime Standard) to the official market with further post-admission obligations. ISIN: DE000KC01000; WKN: KC0100; Common Code: 025808576. Klöckner & Co shares are listed in the MDax® Index of Deutsche Börse.



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