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MEDIA RELEASE

JUDGEMENT ENTERED AGAINST GLOBAL EUROP

On 3 September 2007, CASE issued a media release that it had commenced an action in the High Court for a declaration and injunction against Global Europ (Asia) Pte Limited (“Global Europ”) for having engaged in an unfair practice in breach of the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act.

The High Court granted CASE’s application for an interim injunction on 6 September 2007. This means that as of 6 September 2007 and pending the outcome of the action, Global Europ was restrained from continuing with what CASE says was an unfair practice against consumers.

The matter proceeded to the stage of discovery (this is when parties have to disclose to each other all documents relevant to the dispute). As CASE took the view that Global Europ had not fully discharged its discovery obligation, it took an application for Global Europ to disclose several categories of documents in connection with the action. An order for specific discovery was granted against Global Europ on 19 December 2007. Global Europ’s appeal against this order was dismissed on 21 January 2008.

The matter was resolved with parties entering consent judgment on 14 May 2008 without proceeding to trial. Under the terms of the consent judgment, CASE obtained a declaration that the practice Global Europ had engaged in is an unfair practice, a permanent injunction against Global Europ and its employees from engaging in such unfair practice and an order for Global Europ to pay its legal costs. Under the consent judgment, Global Europ is also obliged to advertise the said consent judgment in the Straits Times and the Lianhe Zaobao.

CASE has therefore achieved a favourable outcome from its action against Global Europ. It effectively obtained all the remedies that it sought against Global Europ

without having to proceed to trial. This has saved considerable time and expense. Consumers who believe that they have been targets of “unfair trade practices” should seek legal advice to see if they may commence legal action against such businesses by lodging their complaints at the Small Claims Tribunal; such claims must be brought within one year from the date of the incident of the unfair trade practice. While CASE may apply to court for a declaration and/or injunction against a person engaging in an unfair practice under the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act, it is not empowered under the Act to seek monetary relief on behalf of any consumer – it remains the prerogative of the consumer to bring such a claim against the person engaging in the unfair practice.

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CASE