

# The Depository Trust Company

# **IMPORTANT**

**B#:** 2046

**DATE:** May 25, 2001

**TO:** All participants

**CATEGORY:** Dividends

**FROM:** Mario Zaccardi, Supervisor, Dividend Department

**ATTENTION:** Operations, Reorg & Dividend Managers, Partners & Cashiers

**SUBJECT:** TaxRelief - Country: GERMANY  
MARKET 2000+ HOLDRS CUSIP: 57059Y204  
Paid on Deutsche Telekom, a component of the HOLDR  
R/D: 05/29/2001 P/D: 06/08/2001 EDS CUT-OFF: 06/01/2001

DTC has been notified by The Bank of New York, the depository bank for the MARKET 2000+ HOLDRS, that a dividend has been declared for Deutsche Telekom, a component of the MARKET 2000+ HOLDRS. Deutsche Telekom dividends are covered under the Tax Convention between the United States and Germany, that qualifying U.S. beneficial owners are entitled to a reduced tax treaty rate of 16.375% for those beneficial owners entitled to the favorable tax rate of 10% ,or a refund of the entire 26.375% for those qualifying exempt organizations.

Participants can use DTC's Elective Dividend System (EDS) function over the Participant Terminal System (PTS) to certify all or a portion of their position entitled to the applicable withholding tax rate. Participants are urged to consult the PTS function TAXI (TAXINFO) before certifying their elections over EDS.

**NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR CERTIFYING OVER EDS IS JUNE 01, 2001.**

**PLEASE REFER TO DTC'S IMPORTANT NOTICE B# 1883 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE UNDERLYING ISSUE, Deutsche Telekom CUSIP 251566105.**

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**IF PARTICIPANTS DO NOT CERTIFY THROUGH EDS FOR THE FAVORABLE RATE, THEY WILL RECEIVE THE DIVIDEND WITH 26.375% WITHHELD.**

**Important: Prior to certifying over EDS, participants are reminded to read, understand and comply with the information in the Legal Conditions category of TAXINFO-Germany under the PTS function TAXI .**

Questions regarding this Important Notice should be directed to Mr. George Di Garbo or myself of DTC's Dividend Department at (212) 855-4539 or 4540 respectively.