

The Depository Trust Company

IMPORTANT

B#: 1955

DATE: May 09, 2001

TO: All Participants

CATEGORY: Proxy

FROM: DTC Proxy Department

ATTENTION: Proxy/Reorganization Manager

SUBJECT: France Telecom
American Depositary Shares
CUSIP #35177Q 10 5

The Bank of New York ('BNY'), Depository for the above captioned American Depositary shares, has advised DTC that France Telecom, the issuer of the ordinary shares underlying these ADS's, is holding its Annual Shareholders' Meeting on May 31, 2001. France Telecom advises BNY that under French Law, shareholders wishing to vote at the meeting must, among other matters, effectively own shares on the day of the meeting.

To enable U.S. holders of France Telecom ADR's to vote at the meeting, The Bank of New York has established a record date of May 3, 2001. Persons who hold France Telecom ADRs on May 3, 2001 and on the day of the meeting and wish to vote the common shares underlying their ADRs (subject to any applicable requirements or restrictions under French Law or under The Company's Articles of Association) may provide such instructions to The Bank of New York . Participants must provide such instructions by May 24, 2001. Participants should obtain the voting instructions forms for that purpose from The Bank of New York by calling Robert Goad at (212) 815-8257. In addition, Participants must follow the procedures described below.

To provide BNY with assurance that ADSs on which it has received voting instructions from a Participant will still be held in that Participant's account on the meeting date, DTC has agreed to segregate positions on which voting instructions have been filed under a separate contra-CUSIP number. The number to be used for this purpose is (35177Q 99 8). A Participant filing voting instructions with BNY on a position in its DTC account will be asked to provide BNY as a part of those instructions a letter authorizing DTC to have its nominee, Cede & Co., execute a proxy on the Participant's behalf and to take certain actions (described below). The form of the authorization letter and the proxy are attached, extra copies will be available from The Bank of New York.

BNY will advise DTC of all voting instructions received under this procedure and provide DTC with the proxy forms and the authorization letters signed by Participants relating to those instructions. For each such instruction, DTC will then execute the proxy, temporarily deduct the position being voted from the Participant's holdings under the France Telecom ADSs CUSIP (35177Q 10 5), temporarily credit the position to an account maintained on behalf of BNY, and indicate that movement in the Participant's account under the France Telecom ADSs contra-CUSIP (35177Q 99 8). DTC will return this position to the Participant's account under the base CUSIP number upon instructions from BNY once the voting has been completed, this should occur on June 1, 2001.

Inquiries regarding this notice should be directed to Steven McGregor at (212) 855-5198 or Kathy Caziarc at (212) 855-5201.

Joseph Raniere

Manager

Attachments

**THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY
55 WATER STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10041**

THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS DEPOSITARY ('BNY')
101 BARCLAY STREET, 22W
NEW YORK, NY 10286
ATTN:ROBERT GOAD
ADR DEPARTMENT
VIA FACSIMILE: (212) 571-3050

FOR PURPOSES OF ATTENDING THE ORDINARY & EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF France Telecom, A CORPORATION ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF FRANCE ("THE COMPANY"), TO BE HELD IN FRANCE, ON May 31, 2001, (THE "MEETING").

CEDE & CO., THE NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY, ('DTC') CERTIFIES THAT ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE PARTICIPANT NAMED BELOW, DTC HAS DELIVERED TO A DTC ACCOUNT MAINTAINED ON BEHALF OF BNY THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN DEPOSITORY SHARES ('ADSs'), SPECIFIED BELOW, WHICH ADSs REPRESENT AMERICAN DEPOSITORY SHARES OF THE COMPANY, UNTIL THE BANK OF NEW YORK ADVISES DTC THAT THE MEETING HAS CONCLUDED. CEDE & CO. HEREBY APPOINTS SUCH PARTICIPANTS AS ITS AGENT AND PROXY TO GIVE OR CONFIRM ALL SUCH INSTRUCTIONS TO BNY AS MAY BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO IDENTIFY THE BENEFICIAL OWNER (S) OF THE NUMBER OF ADSs SPECIFIED BELOW AND TO ENABLE THE PARTICIPANT OR THE BENEFICIAL OWNER (S) OF THE ADS'S REPRESENTED BY THE ADSs SPECIFIED BELOW TO VOTE THEIR ADS FOR THE MEETING.

THIS PROXY IS REVOCABLE ANY TIME AND IN ANY MANNER, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FILING BY CEDE & CO., WITH BNY OF AN INSTRUMENT SIMILAR TO THIS INSTRUMENT RELATING TO THE VOTING OF ADS' SPECIFIED BELOW AT THE MEETING. THE FILING OF WHICH INSTRUMENT SHALL REVOKE ALL THE AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS SPECIFIED HEREIN.

NAME OF PARTICPANT

NUMBER OF AMERICAN DEPOSITARY SHARES

DATED: _____ 2001

FACSIMILE SIGNATURE OF CEDE & CO.

(PARTICIPANTS LETTERHEAD)

_____, 2001

The Depository Trust Company
55 Water Street – 50th Floor
New York, NY 10041

RE: France Telecom CUSIP #35177Q 10 5
DTC Account #: _____
Number of ADSs _____

Gentlemen:

In order to enable the beneficial owner (s) of the number of specified above (the 'Deposited ADSs') of France Telecom American Depository Shares to vote at the Annual Shareholders Meeting of France Telecom scheduled to be held on May 31, 2001, please take the following actions:

- (1) Have your nominees, Cede & Co., complete and sign the attached Proxy with respect to the deposited ADS's and make the signed Proxy available for pick-up by The Bank of New York, ('BNY'); and
- (2) Deliver the Deposited ADSs from the undersigned's above-referenced account to an account with you maintained on behalf of BNY until BNY instructs you to return the Deposited ADS's to the undersigned's above-referenced account.

The undersigned certifies to you that the Deposited ADSs were on May 3, 2001 and are on the date hereof, on deposit in the undersigned's above-referenced account.

Very truly yours,

(Print Participant's Name)

(Signature) and (Medallion Stamp)

(Print Name)

Title