TURNER BROADCASTING SYSTEM EUROPE LIMITED

Report and Accounts

31 December 2000



Registered No. 1927955

DIRECTORS

A Bird I Fitje N Richards L Sams

SECRETARY

Gray's Inn Secretaries Limited

AUDITORS

Ernst & Young Becket House 1 Lambeth Palace Road London SE1 7EU

BANKERS

The Chase Manhattan Bank PO Box 261 1 Chaseside Bournemouth BH7 7DB

SOLICITORS

Denton Wilde Sapte Five Chancery Lane Clifford's Inn London EC4 1BU

REGISTRARS

Denton Wilde Sapte Five Chancery Lane Clifford's Inn London EC4 1BU

REGISTERED OFFICE

CNN House 19-22 Rathbone Place London W1P 1DF

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report and the accounts of the company and not of the group for the year ended 31 December 2000.

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

The company's profit for the year was US\$8,879,453 (1999 – US\$7,290,576). The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of US\$8,239,815 (1999 – US\$nil).

Following a reorganisation of the Turner Broadcasting System Europe Limited group, on 1 January 2000, the company acquired the trades of Turner International Advertising Sales Limited and Turner Broadcasting System Holdings (Europe) Limited (formerly Turner Broadcasting System Europe Limited).

The principal activities of the company are now:

- the licensing of the television networks of Turner Broadcasting System Inc., a 24 hour news program and Turner Entertainment Network International Limited, a cartoon and classic move network;
- the provision of advertising representative services to group undertakings; and
- the provision of management services to group undertakings.

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The directors who have served since 1 January 2000 were as follows:

L Sams

A Bird

N Richards

I Fitje

R Parry

(resigned 29 June 2000)

M Penny

(resigned 29 March 2001)

The directors do not have any interests which are required to be disclosed under schedule 7 of the Companies Act 1985.

FIXED ASSETS

Details of the movements in tangible fixed assets are given in note 9 to the accounts.

AUDITORS

A resolution in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 1985 to dispense with the obligation to appoint auditors annually was passed on 1 December 1994 and accordingly Ernst & Young shall be deemed reappointed as auditors.

By order of the board

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Secretary

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STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ACCOUNTS

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those accounts, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2000

		2000	1999
	Notes	US\$	US\$
TURNOVER	1, 2	143,545,718	86,259,598
Cost of sales		(83,521,131)	(63,212,853)
GROSS PROFIT		60,024,587	23,046,745
Administrative expenses			(12,190,410)
Income from investments		817,977	_
OPERATING PROFIT		12,988,537	10,856,335
Interest receivable	6	4,095,041	5,809
Interest payable	7	(4,894,835)	(197,519)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	3	12.188.743	10,664,625
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	8		(3,374,049)
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR AFTER TAXATION			
TRANSFERRED TO RESERVES	16	8,879,453	7,290,576

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

The company had no recognised gains or losses during the year other than those reflected in the profit and loss account.

BALANCE SHEET At 31 December 2000

		2000	1999
	Notes	US\$	US\$
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	9	15,520,130	751,674
Investments	10	249,797	209,783
		15,769,927	961,457
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors Stock	11	63,013,932 220,599	83,559,802
Cash at bank and in hand		2,781,674	_ _
		66,016,205	83,559,802
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	(69,983,511)	(77,116,755)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		(3,967,306)	6,443,047
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		11,802,621	7,404,504
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year		(3,758,479)	-
PROVISION FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES	13	(875,000)	(875,000)
		7,169,142	6,529,504
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Called up share capital	15	148	148
Profit and loss account	16	7,168,994	6,529,356
EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	16	7,169,142	6,529,504
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REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

to the members of Turner Broadcasting System Europe Limited

We have audited the accounts on pages 5 to 13, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and on the basis of the accounting policies set out on page 7.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 3, the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and accounting standards. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those accounts and to report our opinion to you. Our responsibilities, as independent auditors, are established in the United Kingdom by Statute, the Auditing Practices Board and by our profession's ethical guidance.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts.

Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31 December 2000 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Ernst & Young Registered Auditor

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London

20 April 2001

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Turner Broadcasting System Europe Limited

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

At 31 December 2000

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The accounts are stated in US dollars.

Turnover

Turnover is primarily generated from the company's principal activities and represents the value of services provided during the year in the normal course of business net of value added tax. The unearned portion is recorded as deferred income. The company's activities are based primarily in the UK, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Depreciation

All tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their estimated useful economic life on a straight-line basis.

The annual rates of depreciation are:

Leasehold improvements - Over the life of the lease

Computer equipment – 3 years
Office equipment – 5 years
Furniture and fittings – 5 years

Foreign currency translation

Transactions denominated in non-US dollar currencies are recorded in US dollars at actual exchange rates as at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than US dollars at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date. Any gain or loss arising from a change in exchange rate is recorded in the profit and loss account.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are shown at historic cost.

Pensions

The company's employees are eligible to join the group defined contribution scheme. Company contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as incurred.

Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided using the liability method on all timing differences which are expected to reverse in the future without being replaced, calculated at the rate at which it is anticipated the timing differences will reverse.

Deferred tax assets are only recognised if recovery without replacement by equivalent debit balances is reasonably certain.

Operating leases

The company enters into operating leases. Rentals under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account, as incurred, over the terms of the leases.

Statement of cash flows

A statement of cash flows has been omitted as the company has taken advantage of the dispensation available under FRS 1 (Revised) to wholly owned subsidiary undertakings where a consolidated statement of cash flows has been prepared by the parent undertaking (note 19).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

At 31 December 2000

2. TURNOVER

The geographical source of the turnover of the company is as follows:

	2000	1999
	US\$	US\$
UK	42,436,404	20,456,798
Europe	62,930,892	50,793,000
Africa and Middle East	16,546,360	15,009,800
Rest of the world	21,632,062	_
	143,545,718	86,259,598

Turnover is all attributable to continuing activities.

Following a reorganisation of the Turner Broadcasting System Europe Limited group, on 1 January 2000, the company acquired the trades of Turner International Advertising Sales Limited and Turner Broadcasting System Holdings (Europe) Limited.

3. PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION

Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging:

	2000	1999
	US\$	US\$
Depreciation of fixed assets	2,177,702	156,405
Foreign exchange loss	2,832,050	485,042

Remuneration paid to the auditors during the year in respect of the audit of the UK group was US\$163,484. Remuneration for other services provided by the auditors totalled US\$15,918. During 1999, auditors' remuneration was borne by another group undertaking and disclosed in its accounts.

4. DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS

Directors' emoluments (including pension contributions) were as follows:

	2000	1999
	US\$	US\$
Total emoluments:		
Salaries and benefits	3,059,005	967,928
Compensation for loss of office	-	486,846
Pensions	166,118	38,060
	3,225,123	1,492,834

The total emoluments of the highest paid director were US\$1,502,528 (1999 - US\$1,301,269). Five directors were members of a money purchase pension scheme.

During the year, two directors exercised share options.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

At 31 December 2000

5. STAFF COSTS

Particulars of employee costs are shown below:

	2000	1999
	US\$	US\$
Wages and salaries	14,669,553	2,522,412
Social security costs	2,077,003	376,551
Other pension costs	497,601	49,381
	17,244,157	2,948,344

The average number of employees during the year was 193 (1999 - 30). All employees are primarily located in the United Kingdom.

6. INTEREST RECEIVABLE

There has been interest receivable of US\$13,694 (1999 - US\$5,809) in respect of miscellaneous third party interest during the year. An additional US\$4,081,347 (1999 - US\$nil) is receivable from a group undertaking.

7. INTEREST PAYABLE

There has been interest payable of US\$4,599,684 (1999 – US\$197,519) in respect of an intercompany loan from Time Warner Finance Limited. An additional US\$295,151 (1999 – US\$nil) is payable in respect of miscellaneous third party interest during the year.

8. TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

	2000	1999
	US\$	US\$
Corporation tax payable at 30% (1999 – 30.33%)	2,000,000	862,049
Group relief payable	1,263,000	2,462,000
Overseas tax	2,156,290	862,049
Double taxation relief	(2,000,000)	(862,049)
Prior year adjustment	(110,000)	50,000
	3,309,290	3,374,049
		

If full provision had been made for deferred taxation for the year, the taxation charge would have been reduced by US\$12,000 (1999 – reduced by US\$114,000), as follows:

	2000 US\$	1999 US\$
Fixed asset timing differences Other timing differences	47,000 (59,000)	(17,000) (97,000)
	(12,000)	(114,000)
		

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

At 31 December 2000

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

				Furniture	
	Leasehold	Computer	Office	and	
	improvement	equipment	equipment	fittings	Total
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Cost:					
At 1 January 2000	1,220,395	133,357	292,420	_	1,646,172
Additions	7,743,442	1,600,020	12,551	991,815	10,347,828
Transfers from group undertakings	5,484,573	5,046,124	501,559	1,435,529	12,467,785
Transfers to group undertakings	_	(176,582)	_	(35,400)	(211,982)
At 31 December 2000	14,448,410	6,602,919	806,530	2,391,944	24,249,803
Accumulated depreciation:					
At 1 January 2000	699,450	37,125	157,923	_	894,498
Provided during the year	585,518	1,148,346	102,726	341,112	2,177,702
Transfers from group undertakings	1,018,474	3,508,186	413,134	895,430	5,835,224
Transfers to group undertakings	. —	(164,806)	-	(12,945)	(177,751)
At 31 December 2000	2,303,442	4,528,851	673,783	1,223,597	8,729,673
Not be also values					
Net book value: At 31 December 2000	12,144,968	2,074,068	132,747	1,168,347	15,520,130
At 31 December 2000	12,144,700	2,074,000	132,747	1,100,547	15,520,130
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At 1 January 2000	520,945	96,232	134,497	-	751,674
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10. INVESTMENT

Investment in subsidiary undertaking US\$ 148 209 635

At 1 January 1999 Additions	148 209,635
At 31 December 1999 Additions	209,783 40,014
At 31 December 2000	249,797

The investment at the end of 1998 was entirely in Turner Broadcasting International Limited, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom and a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Turner Broadcasting System Europe Limited. During 1999 Turner Broadcasting International Limited, which had previously been dormant for some years, acquired a 100% interest in Turner Broadcasting System Italia Srl, a company incorporated in Italy.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

At 31 December 2000

10. INVESTMENT (continued)

During 1999, Turner Broadcasting System Europe Limited acquired a 100% interest in newly incorporated companies as follows:

Company	Incorporated in
Turner Broadcasting System Deutschland GmbH	Germany
Turner Broadcasting System Nordic AB	Sweden
Turner Broadcasting System France SAS	France
Turner Broadcasting System Espagna SA	Spain

In 2000, Turner Broadcasting System Europe Limited acquired a 100% interest in the newly incorporated Turner Broadcasting System Nederland BV, a company incorporated in the Netherlands.

Group accounts have not been prepared as the company has taken advantage of the dispensation available to wholly owned subsidiary undertakings where group accounts have been prepared by an EC parent undertaking (note 19).

11. DEBTORS

		2000	1999
		US\$	US\$
	Trade debtors	26,710,646	18,448,089
	Amounts owed by group undertakings	33,821,272	64,866,854
	Other debtors	71,616	_
	Prepayments	2,410,398	244,859
		63,013,932	83,559,802
			=======================================
12.	CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		
		2000	1999
		US\$	US\$
	Trade creditors	3,198,214	_
	Amounts owed to group undertakings	56,103,068	68,061,786
	Other creditors including taxation and social security		1,086,874
	Accruals and deferred income	7,087,132	
	Group relief payable	1,263,000	2,462,000
		69,983,511	77,116,755
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Included in 'Amounts owed to group undertakings' above is US\$14,053,717 (1999 – US\$66,600,000) owed to Time Warner Finance Limited, drawn down from a loan facility of US\$100,000,000 established 17 December 1999. Amounts payable under this facility are repayable upon 3 business days' notice from either party and must be repaid in full by November 2003.

15.

Turner Broadcasting System Europe Limited

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS At 31 December 2000

13. PROVISION FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

	Joint venture	
	liabilities	Total
	US\$	US\$
At 1 January 2000 Net movement in the year	875,000 —	875,000 -
At 31 December 2000	875,000	875,000
		

A provision has been established for liabilities that may arise upon termination of various contracts in the next two years.

14. DEFERRED TAXATION

		Provided	Not provided	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Fixed asset timing differences	_	_	(225,000)	(272,000)
Other timing differences	_	_	(344,000)	(285,000)
			(569,000)	(557,000)
SHARE CAPITAL				
	2000	2000	1999	1999
	Number	US\$	Number	US\$
Authorised:				
Ordinary shares of £1 each	100	148	100	148
Allotted, called up and fully paid:				
Ordinary shares of £1 each	100	148	100	148

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS At 31 December 2000

16. RECONCILIATION OF SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS AND MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	Share capital US\$	Profit and loss account US\$	Total share- holders' funds US\$
At 1 January 1999 Profit for the year transferred to reserves	148	(761,220) 7,290,576	(761,072) 7,290,576
At 31 December 1999 Profit for the year transferred to reserves Dividend payable	148	6,529,356 8,879,453 (8,239,815)	6,529,504 8,879,453 (8,239,815)
At 31 December 2000	148	7,168,994	7,169,142

17. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The company was committed to making the following annual payments in respect of operating leases:

	Land and	Total	Total
	buildings	2000	1999
	US\$	US\$	US\$
Leases which expire:			
After 5 years	6,739,583	6,739,583	5,834,880
			<u></u>

18. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The company has taken advantage of the exemption available under FRS 8 not to disclose related party transactions with fellow subsidiary undertakings.

19. ULTIMATE PARENT UNDERTAKING

The company's ultimate parent undertaking is AOL Time Warner Inc. (formerly Time Warner Inc.), which is incorporated in the United States of America. Copies of its group accounts, which include the company, are available from 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019.

The smallest group for which group accounts are prepared and of which this company is a member is Time Warner Limited. Copies of these accounts are available from the Registrar of Companies in Cardiff.

The company's immediate parent undertaking is Turner Broadcasting System Holdings (Europe) Limited.