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ESTEE LAUDER COMPANIES INC

Form 8-K

January 13, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549-1004

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) :  
January 13, 2003

The Estee Lauder Companies Inc.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

11-2408943  
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

Commission File Number: 1-14064

767 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York  
(Address of principal executive offices)

10153  
(Zip Code)

212-572-4200  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure

The Estee Lauder Companies Inc. has signed an agreement to acquire the Paris-based Darphin group of companies that develops, manufactures and markets the "Darphin" brand of skin care products. The transaction is subject to certain significant conditions, including potential review by French competition authorities, and is not expected to be completed until later in the fiscal year.

The Darphin group was founded in 1958 by renowned dermatological specialist Pierre Darphin. Currently the group is owned and managed by Andre Benet and his family. Under terms of the agreement, Mr. Benet will continue to direct Darphin's creative activities, its manufacturing and the sale of Darphin products in Europe and through its distributors.

Darphin products are sold to consumers at high-end independent pharmacies, primarily in Europe, and at specialty stores in over 50 countries around the world.

SIGNATURES

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

THE ESTEE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.

Date: January 13, 2003

By: /s/Richard W. Kunes

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Richard W. Kunes  
Senior Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and  
Accounting Officer)