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**Common Market for Eastern  
and Southern Africa**

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## **COMESA Competition Commission commences Phase 2 review of the Proposed Merger involving Marinvest S.r.l., and Ignazio Messina & C. S.p.A.**

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The COMESA Competition Commission (the “Commission”) has commenced a Phase 2 review to assess whether the proposed merger involving Marinvest S.r.l., and Ignazio Messina & C. S.p.A., which was notified to the Commission on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019, is compatible with the COMESA Competition Regulations (the “**Regulations**”). The phase 2 will continue until the end of the 120- day review period from the date of notification.

The Commission's initial assessment has shown that there are horizontal overlaps between the activities of the acquirer and the target pre-merger. The Commission is concerned that the proposed merger may result in the strengthening of market power of the merging parties on certain shipping routes.

The Commission will conduct an in-depth assessment of the transaction to determine whether these initial concerns are confirmed. **The opening of a phase 2 review does not prejudice the outcome of the Commission’s assessment.**

### ***Parties Involved***

The acquirer, Marinvest, forms part of the MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company S.A. (“MSC”), in turn belonging to the MSC group which is active, at a global level, in cargo maritime transport, port handling activities, logistics, as well as in passenger maritime transport and the cruise sector. In the Common Market, the MSC group is active only in cargo maritime transport, specifically container-liner services, in the following Member States: Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Sudan, Tunisia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The target undertaking, IM, is a shipping company that provides regular liner services connecting the Mediterranean to Africa, the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent. In the Common Market, IM’s activities are limited to Ro-Ro shipping services and container-liner services, in the following Member States: Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Sudan, Tunisia, and Uganda.

More information is available on the Commission's [Merger Cases](#) webpage, under the case number [MER/11/41/2019](#).

If you wish to seek further details and/or clarifications on any aspect of this transaction, you may get in touch with **Ms. Sandya Booluck, Senior Analyst, Mergers and Acquisitions**, on +265 (0) 1 772 466 or via email at [sbooluck@comesa.int](mailto:sbooluck@comesa.int).