



COMESA Competition Commission

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**Common Market for Eastern
and Southern Africa**

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COMESA Competition Commission Extends Period for Assessment of the Merger Involving Heineken International B.V., Namibia Breweries Limited and Distell Group Holdings Limited

The COMESA Competition Commission (the “**Commission**”) hereby informs the public and relevant stakeholders that on 28 November 2022, it received approval from the Committee Responsible for Initial Determination for an extension of the statutory period for assessment of the proposed merger involving Heineken International B.V., Namibia Breweries Limited and Distell Group Holdings Limited, pursuant to Article 25(2) of the COMESA Competition Regulations (the “**Regulations**”).

Article 25(1) of the Regulations provides that the Commission shall examine a merger within 120 days. Further, Article 25(2) of the Regulations provides that if prior to the expiry of the 120-day period, the Commission has decided that a longer time period is necessary, it shall so inform the parties and seek an extension from the Board.

In conducting its competition assessment, the Commission identified potential concerns in relation to the ciders and beer markets. There remain areas of significant divergence between the merging parties and the Commission on the identified concerns and the contemplated remedies. In this regard, the Commission is currently in discussion with the merging parties and the affected Member States. The foregoing notwithstanding, **the identification of preliminary concerns does not prejudice the outcome of the Commission’s assessment.**

Having regard to the above, the Commission noted that it required additional time to conclude its assessment and for the merging parties to make further representations. Therefore, the Committee Responsible for Initial Determinations granted an extension of 60 days starting from 6 December 2022.

More information is available on the Commission's [Merger Cases](#) webpage, under the case number [MER/04/27/2022](#).

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.