

16 December 2022

CCC Merger Inquiry Notice No. 46 of 2022

Notice of Inquiry into the Proposed Acquisition of control over Solevo Holding B.V. and its subsidiaries by Development Partners International LLP

It is hereby notified in terms of Article 26(6) of the COMESA Competition Regulations (the “**Regulations**”) that the COMESA Competition Commission (the “**Commission**”), after receiving a notification in terms of Article 24 of the Regulations regarding the proposed acquisition of control over Solevo Holding B.V. (“**Solevo**” or the “**target undertaking**”) by Development Partners International LLP (“**DPI**” or the “**acquiring undertaking**”), intends to embark on an inquiry in terms of Article 26 of the Regulations.

The proposed transaction concerns the acquisition of control over Solevo and its subsidiaries (the “**Solevo Group**”) by DPI through its two investment funds, African Development Partners III LP (“**ADP III**”) and African Development Partners III Mauritius L.P. (“**ADP III Mauritius**”).

DPI is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales. DPI is a specialist African investment group, which invests in companies which are active in a range of economic sectors such as agro-processing, education, financial services, logistics, packaging and pharmaceuticals. Within the Common Market, DPI operates in Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Solevo is a private company with limited liability registered in the Netherlands. The Solevo Group is a distributor of inputs such as crop protection products, fertilisers and seeds for specific agricultural segments across a number of African markets. Within the Common Market, the Solevo Group is active only in Madagascar.

The Commission will, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations, determine, among other things, whether the Proposed Transaction is likely to substantially prevent or lessen competition within the Common Market and whether the Proposed Transaction is or would be contrary to the public interest as provided for under Article 26 of the Regulations.

In view of this, the Commission hereby gives notice to all interested stakeholders, including competitors, suppliers and customers of the parties to the proposed transaction to submit written representations to the Commission with regard to the subject matter of the proposed inquiry by emailing them to: akamanga@comesa.int.

All written representations should be sent to the Commission not later than **2 February 2023**.

If you wish to seek further details and/or clarifications on any aspect of this proposed transaction or need assistance you may get in touch with **Mr. Ali Kamanga, Senior Analyst, Mergers and Acquisitions** on Tel: +265 (0) 1 772 466 or akamanga@comesa.int.

All written representations submitted to the Commission will be treated with the strictest confidentiality and will only be used for the purpose of this inquiry.