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Common Market for Eastern  
and Southern Africa

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## **CCC Merger Inquiry Notice No. 06 of 2015**

### **Notice of Inquiry into the Transaction involving the Merger between Holtzbrinck Publishing Group and Springer Science and Business Media GP Acquisition S.C.A**

It is hereby notified in terms of Article 26(6) of the COMESA Competition Regulations hereinafter referred to as “the Regulations” that the COMESA Competition Commission hereinafter referred to as “the Commission” after receiving a notification in terms of Article 24 of the Regulations regarding the proposed merger between Holtzbrinck Publishing Group hereinafter referred to as “HPG” and Springer Science and Business Media GP Acquisitions S.C.A hereinafter referred to as “Springer” intends to embark on an inquiry in terms of Article 26 of the Regulations.

We are informed by the parties that the proposed transaction is a global transaction in terms of which all the activities of Springer and its subsidiaries (collectively “SSBM Group”) and most of the activities of HPG’s business unit “Macmillan Science and Education” will be combined in a joint venture, which will be jointly controlled by HPG and Springer.

The parties submitted that HPG is the collective trading name of Georg von Holtzbrinck GmbH, and its global subsidiaries. HPG is a global publishing company with three core operational divisions. The division affected by the proposed transaction is Macmillan Science and Education which is focused on science and education.

The parties have further submitted that SSBM Group is a global publishing company. Its principal business activities comprise the publishing of academic journals and books, primarily in the science, technology and medical fields, certain operations in the area of online databases and workflow tools and local language professional publishing under various imprints, amongst others, in Germany and the Netherlands.

The Commission will, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations, determine among other things whether or not the merger is likely to substantially prevent or lessen competition within the Common Market. In view of this, the Commission hereby gives notice to all interested stakeholders, including competitors, suppliers and customers of the merging parties to submit written representations to the Commission in regard to the subject matter of the proposed inquiry by emailing them to: [wmwemba@comesa.int](mailto:wmwemba@comesa.int). All written representations should be sent to the Commission not later than **Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015**.

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. Willard Mwemba, Manager Mergers and Acquisitions** on Tel: +265 (0) 1 772466 or E-mail [wmwemba@comesa.int](mailto:wmwemba@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.