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Common Market for Eastern
and Southern Africa

28th December 2021

CCC Merger Inquiry Notice No. 32 of 2021

Notice of Inquiry into the proposed acquisition of Curechem Zambia Limited and Curechem Overseas (Private) Limited by ETG Inputs Zambia Ltd and ETG Inputs Zimbabwe (Private) Ltd, respectively

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 Curechem Zambia Limited (“**Curechem Zambia**”) and Curechem Overseas (Pvt) Limited (“**Curechem Overseas**”) (together the “**Target Undertakings**”) by ETG Inputs Zambia Ltd (“**ETG Zambia**”) and ETG Inputs Zimbabwe (Private) Ltd (“**ETG Zimbabwe**”), (together the “**Acquiring Undertakings**”), intends to embark on an inquiry in terms of Article 26 of the Regulations.

The Acquiring Undertakings

ETG Zambia is a company incorporated in accordance with the laws of Zambia while ETG Zimbabwe is a company incorporated in accordance with the laws of Zimbabwe. The Acquiring Undertakings are subsidiaries of the ETG Group, a global player with a diverse portfolio of expertise across multiple industries, encompassing agricultural inputs, logistics, merchandising and processing, supply chain optimization, digital transformation, and energy. The Acquiring Undertakings are primarily engaged in importing, exporting, processing, blending, warehousing, bagging, trading & distribution, production of fertilizers, agri-inputs, agro chemicals, agricultural equipment, seeds, and related chemicals. Within the Common Market, the ETG Group is active in the following Member States: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The Target Undertakings

The Target Undertakings, Curechem Zambia and Curechem Overseas, are companies incorporated under the respective laws of Zambia and Zimbabwe. The

Target Undertakings are engaged in the business of importing and supplying agro chemicals, industrial raw material as well as chemicals used in the mining process in Zambia and Zimbabwe. They supply their inputs for farmers including the cotton contractors, tobacco contractors as well as triangle sugarcane farmers. They also supply mining reagents to both large- and small-scale miners, and industrial chemicals to the manufacturing industries from detergent, cosmetics, and food products sector as well as water treatment chemicals and those used in paint manufacturing. Within the Common Market, the Target Undertakings are respectively active in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Commission, therefore, seeks stakeholder views on this transaction especially with regard its likely effects on competition in the market. The submissions are very pertinent for the Commission to enable us review the transaction on the basis of sufficient information and consequently reaching accurate conclusions.

The Commission will, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations, determine, among other things, whether or not 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 relating to the inquiry by emailing them to: akamanga@comesa.int. All written representations should be sent to the Commission not later than **27th January 2022**.

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.