



**COMESA Competition Commission**

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Common Market for Eastern  
and Southern Africa

**15 March 2024**

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**COMESA Competition Commission Extends Period for Assessment of the Merger involving the Establishment of a Joint Venture, Mawezi RDC S.A., by Airtel Congo RDC S.A. and Orange RDC S.A.**

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The COMESA Competition Commission (the “**Commission**”) hereby informs the public and relevant stakeholders that on 11 March 2024, it received approval from the Committee Responsible for Initial Determinations for a further extension of the statutory period for the assessment of the proposed merger involving the Merger involving the Establishment of a Joint Venture, Mawezi RDC S.A., by Airtel Congo RDC S.A. and Orange RDC S.A., 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 how the Joint Venture will be accessible by telecommunication service providers other than the Parent Companies in the Democratic Republic of Congo (the “**DRC**”). The statutory assessment period would have expired on 18 March 2024. The Commission has sought for additional time to further engage the parties and other relevant stakeholders in the DRC.

Having regard to the above, the Committee Responsible for Initial Determinations granted an extension of 60 days starting from **19 March 2024**.

The foregoing notwithstanding, **the identification of preliminary concerns does not prejudice the outcome of the Commission’s assessment.**

More information is available on the Commission's [Merger Cases](#) webpage, under the case number [CCC/MER/8/26/2023](#).

If you wish to seek further details and/or clarifications on any aspect of this transaction, you may get in touch with **Mr. Ali Kamanga, Principal Analyst, Competition Division**, on +265 (0) 111 772 466 or via email at [akamanga@comesacompetition.org](mailto:akamanga@comesacompetition.org).