



18 March 2026

CCCC Merger Inquiry Notice No. 13 of 2026

Notice of Inquiry into the Merger between Arla Foods amba, Deutsches Milchkontor eG, and Drents Overijsselse Cooperatie Kaas U.A.

It is hereby notified in terms of Article 26 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 merger between Arla Foods amba (“**Arla**”, or the “**Acquiring Firm**”) and Deutsches Milchkontor eG (“**DMK eG**”), and Drents Overijsselse Cooperatie Kaas U.A. (“**DOC**”), together the (“**Target Group**”), intends to embark on an inquiry in terms of Article 26 of the Regulations.

The parties submitted that Arla will acquire all businesses and activities of DMK eG and DOC, including 100% of the shares in DMK Deutsches Milchkontor GmbH (“**DMK GmbH**” and, together with DMK eG, “**DMK**”), and the individual farmer members of DMK eG and DOC will, through a series of inter-related steps, become direct members of Arla.

The parties submitted that Arla is a dairy cooperative owned by farmers across seven European countries, namely Denmark, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. Further, Arla is active in the procurement and processing of raw milk, as well as in the production and sale of a wide range of dairy products, including fresh milk, butter, yoghurt, cream, cheese, and ingredients. Arla is headquartered in Denmark but operates globally across multiple regions. Within the Common Market, Arla operates in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sudan, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe.

The parties submitted that DMK eG is a cooperative of approximately 4,000 German dairy farmers and owns 90% of the shares in DMK GmbH, a dairy company based in Germany. DMK GmbH is the operating company of DMK eG and DOC and is responsible for procurement and processing of raw milk and production and supply of dairy products, including basic milk products, cheese, baby food, ice cream, and dairy ingredients. The parties further submitted that DMK sells its products globally. Within the Common Market, DMK operates in Comoros, Egypt, Libya, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Tunisia.

The parties submitted that DOC is a Dutch dairy cooperative. Since 2016, DOC has owned 10% of the shares in DMK GmbH. The parties further submitted that DOC collects milk from its farmer members and supplies the milk to DMK GmbH, which manufactures a wide range of dairy products. Further, DOC had no turnover or asset value in any COMESA Member State.

The parties submitted that the proposed merger will enable the combined cooperatives to offer a wider range of dairy products globally while ensuring competitive milk prices to their farmers.

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 or would be contrary to the public interest as provided for under Article 26 of the CCCPR.

In view of this, the Commission hereby gives notice to all interested stakeholders, including competitors, suppliers and customers of the parties of the proposed transaction and requests them submit written representations to the Commission with regard to the subject matter of the proposed inquiry by emailing them to: mdebessay@comesacompetition.org. All written representations should be sent to the Commission not later than **8 April 2026**.

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. Mengistu Debessay, Principal Analyst, Competition Division** on Tel: +265 (0) 111 772 466 or mdebessay@comesacompetition.org.

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.