



The Competition Authority

An tÚdarás Iomaíochta

MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT

24 AUGUST 2010

Competition Authority Clears the Acquisition of Gilbeys of Ireland Limited by Gleeson Wines and Spirits Limited

The Competition Authority has today cleared the proposed acquisition whereby Gleeson Wines and Spirits Limited ("GWS") would acquire certain assets of Gilbeys of Ireland Limited ("GL"). The transaction was notified by the parties under the Competition Act 2002 on 30 July 2010.

GWS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of M. & J. Gleeson (Investments) Limited which is, in turn, controlled by M. & J. Gleeson Holdings, the ultimate holding company of the group ("the Gleeson Group"). The Gleeson Group is engaged in the following activities:

- The manufacture and sale of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages in the State;
- The wholesale distribution of alcoholic (wine, beer and spirits) and non-alcoholic (mineral water and soft drinks) beverages in the State. The Gleeson Group has, however, very limited involvement in the wholesale distribution of wine in the State; and,
- The manufacture and sale of PET pre-forms and bottles in the State (i.e., specialist containers and bottles both for its own production of soft drinks and mineral water and for sale to third parties).

GL does not manufacture any alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages. GL is involved in the wholesale distribution of wine in the State. In addition, GL is also involved in the wholesale distribution of other alcoholic (beer and spirits) and non-alcoholic (mineral water and soft drinks) beverages in the Greater Dublin Area.

The Authority has formed the view that the proposed acquisition does not raise any competition concerns in the State. The companies have been informed of the decision that the proposed acquisition will not lead to a substantial lessening of competition in any markets for goods or services in the State. The Authority will publish a public version of the reasons for its determination on its website (www.tca.ie) no later than 23 October 2010 after allowing the parties the opportunity to request that confidential information is removed from the published version.

For further information contact:

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