**PRESS RELEASE**

**Work on setting up the ARCC Council comes to an end in Banjul: Council members take part in a briefing session and elect their Chairperson**

***The ten (10) new members of the Board of the ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority (ARCC), who had been sworn in the previous day, took part on Thursday October 3, 2024, in Banjul, The Gambia, in an information and presentation session on the ARCC's mandate and legal instruments, and proceeded to elect their Chairperson.***

Chaired by **Mrs Massandjé TOURE-LITSE,** Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture, the session was moderated by **Dr Siméon Koffi,** ARCC Executive Director. He presented the legal instruments, i.e. the three Additional Acts, the four Regulations and the six manuals of procedure which provide the framework for competition regulation within ECOWAS.

Dr. Siméon Koffi's presentation also focused on ARCC's achievements, notably in terms of strengthening the regulatory and institutional framework, market analysis, support to member states, capacity building and developing cooperation with other Regional Economic Communities and international organizations working in the field.

In the afternoon, Board members elected their Chairman. Dr. Juliette TWUMASI-ANOKYE, a competition law specialist from Ghana, was elected Chairman of the ARCC Council for a four (4) year term. Her task will be to coordinate the Council's activities in liaison with ARCC's Executive Director. The first meeting of the ARCC Council ended with closing remarks from the Commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture, Mme Massandjé TOURE-LITSE.

**--------------END-----------------**

For further information, Kindly contact:

Directorate of Communication, ECOWAS Commission

Twitter: @ecowas\_cedeao - Facebook: Ecowas-Cedeao

[www.ecowas.int](http://www.ecowas.int)

**About ECOWAS**

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established when the ECOWAS Treaty was signed by 15 West African Heads of State and Government on the 28th of May 1975 in Lagos, Nigeria. The ECOWAS region spans an area of 5.2 million square kilometres. The Member States are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo.

Considered one of the pillars of the African Economic Community, ECOWAS was set up to promote co-operation and integration, leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa to raise the living standards of its peoples, and to maintain and enhance economic stability, foster relations-among Member States and contribute to the progress and development of the African continent.

In 2007, ECOWAS Secretariat was transformed into a Commission. The Commission is headed by the President, assisted by a Vice President, and Five Commissioners, comprising experienced bureaucrats who are providing the leadership in this new orientation. As part of thisrenewal process, ECOWAS is implementing critical and strategic programmes that will deepen cohesion and progressively eliminate identified barriers to full integration. In this way, the estimated 300 million citizens of the community can ultimately take ownership for the realization of the new vision of moving from an ECOWAS of States to an **“ECOWAS of the People: Peace and Prosperity to All”** by 2050.