

Paris, July 26, 2021

**Astura advised the Vista Group in two major transactions in Western Africa: the acquisition of BNP Paribas' subsidiaries in Burkina Faso and Guinea**

Vista Group is a panafrikan banking and insurance group owned by US-based investors. In constant growth, Vista group finances intra-African trade, therefore contributing to the economic growth of the countries where it operates and promoting economic and financial inclusion.

Astura acted as Vista Group's lead legal counsel in the acquisition of a controlling interest in BNP Paribas Group's subsidiaries in each of Burkina Faso (*Banque Internationale pour le Commerce, l'Industrie et l'Agriculture du Burkina - BICIAB*), and Guinea (*Banque Internationale pour le Commerce et l'Industrie de Guinée - BICIGUI*).

The acquisitions expand Vista Group's network of banks already established in Guinea, Gambia and Sierra-Leone and offer a presence in the West African Economic and Monetary Union benefiting from the unique banking license by the Central Bank of West African States.

African Export-Import Bank (George Elombi, Augustine Emeka Uzoh and Enga Kameni) assisted Vista Group on the structuring of the financing for the acquisitions, and was advised by Baker McKenzie (Gonzague Basso, Thomas Lefevre et Jade Jarretou).

BNP Paribas (Jean-Paul Sabet, Sébastien Litteri, Axel Leroy Duval, Pierre Yves Berard) was advised by White & Case (Franck De Vita, Agathe Delalande and Anne-Liz Salapian).

Deloitte Financial Advisory (Sebastien Manelfe, Thibault Guglieri, Malik Feddi and Raynaud Baptiste), Deloitte Risk Advisory (Aristide Ouattara, Jean-Philippe Babo) and Deloitte Tax and Legal (Micheline Rose Koudou, Noel-Faustin Kouamé) acted as Vista Group's advisor on financial due diligence, strategic, regulatory and tax aspects.

Astura acted as Vista Group's lead counsel, notably in M&A and financing (Raphaël Dalmas, Lucile Mazoué and Margot Blondel), and IP/IT (Matthieu Mélin and Alexandra Mazeyrac) in collaboration with numerous local counsels, including:

- Perkins Coie LLP (Richard Ross) for US Law;
- Thiam & Associés (Baba Hady Thiam, Amadou Barry and Diallo Bodeen) for OHADA Law;
- Bile-Aka Brizoua-Bi & Associés (Michel Brizoua-Bi) for OHADA Law;
- Semega Chambers (Ebironke Janneh Jagana) for Gambian Law;
- Sollie Law Chambers (Lamin Ceesay) for Gambian Law;
- Yada Williams & Associates (Osman Jalloh) for Sierra Leonean Law; and
- Bridges Lawyers & Law Consultants (Vony Ramsamy) for Mauritius Law.

Astura is an independent French law firm with an international outreach. Astura's team composed of a dozen individuals has cutting-edge experience in mergers and acquisitions, private equity, financing, information technology, intellectual property and personal data.

Astura is a French Association d'Avocats à Responsabilité Professionnelle Individuelle. Toque D 1044.



26 avenue George V

75008 Paris

P +33 (0)1 84 16 24 30

F +33 (0)1 84 16 24 39

For more information, please contact

E-mail: [contact@astura.fr](mailto:contact@astura.fr)

Phone: +33 (0)1.84.16.24.30

[www.astura.fr](http://www.astura.fr)