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COCA-COLA ENTERPRISES, INC.

Form 425

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Securities Act of 1933, as amended  
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Filer: Coca-Cola European Partners Limited

Subject Company: Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc.

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On November 9, 2015, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc. ( CCE ) learned that the European Commission approved the three-way merger of CCE, Coca-Cola Iberian Partners ( CCIP ) and Coca-Cola Erfrischungsgetränke AG ( CCEAG ) to create a new Western European bottler called Coca-Cola European Partners ( CCEP ). Following is the text of an announcement posted by each of CCE and The Coca-Cola Company ( KO ) to their respective internal websites in connection with the approval:

Coca-Cola European Partners Transaction Clears European Regulatory Review

The European Commission has announced that it has approved the proposed three-way merger of Coca-Cola Enterprises (CCE), Coca-Cola Iberian Partners (CCIP) and Coca-Cola Erfrischungsgetränke AG (CCEAG) to create a new Western European bottler called Coca-Cola European Partners (CCEP). This regulatory clearance marks an important milestone in the proposed transaction and, pending all further regulatory and shareowners approvals, keeps the transaction on track to close in the second quarter of 2016.

The three companies said they were pleased with the European Commission's assessment of the pending merger calling it another important milestone in the proposed transaction.

As announced in August, the merger of CCE, CCIP and CCEAG will create the world's largest independent Coca-Cola bottler based on net revenues. The increased scale and flexibility of CCEP's broader European geographic footprint will allow it to compete more effectively across nonalcoholic beverage categories.

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This communication may contain statements, estimates or projections that constitute forward-looking statements as defined under U.S. federal securities laws. Generally, the words believe, expect, intend, estimate, anticipate, project, plan, seek, may, could, would, forecast, outlook, guidance, possible, potential, predict and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements, which generally are historical in nature. Forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from KO, CCE or CCEP historical experience and their respective present expectations or projections, including expectations or projections with respect to the transaction. These risks include, but are not limited to, obesity concerns; water scarcity and poor quality; evolving consumer preferences; increased competition and capabilities in the marketplace; product safety and quality concerns; perceived negative health consequences of certain ingredients, such as nonnutritive sweeteners and biotechnology-derived substances, and of other substances present in their beverage products or packaging materials; increased demand for food products and decreased agricultural productivity; changes in the retail landscape or the loss of key retail or foodservice customers; an inability to expand operations in emerging or developing markets; fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates; interest rate increases; an inability to maintain good relationships with their partners; a deterioration in their partners' financial condition; increases in income tax rates, changes in income tax laws or unfavorable resolution of tax matters; increased or new indirect taxes in the United States or in other tax jurisdictions; increased cost, disruption of supply or shortage of energy or fuels; increased cost, disruption of supply or shortage of ingredients, other raw materials or packaging materials; changes in laws and regulations relating to beverage containers and packaging; significant additional labeling or warning requirements or limitations on the availability of their respective products; an inability to protect their respective information systems against service interruption, misappropriation of data or breaches of security; unfavorable general economic or political conditions in the United States, Europe or elsewhere; litigation or legal proceedings; adverse weather conditions; climate change; damage to their respective brand images and corporate reputation from negative publicity, even if unwarranted, related to product safety or quality, human and workplace rights, obesity or other issues; changes in, or failure to comply with, the laws and regulations applicable to their respective products or business operations; changes in accounting standards; an inability to achieve their respective overall long-term growth objectives; deterioration of global credit market conditions; default by or failure of one or more of their respective counterparty financial institutions; an inability to timely implement their previously announced actions to reinvigorate growth, or to realize the economic benefits they anticipate from these actions; failure to realize a significant portion of the anticipated benefits of their respective strategic relationships, including (without limitation) KO's relationship with Keurig Green

Mountain, Inc. and Monster Beverage Corporation; an inability to renew collective bargaining agreements on satisfactory terms, or they or their respective partners experience strikes, work stoppages or labor unrest; future impairment charges; multi-employer plan withdrawal liabilities in the future; an inability to successfully manage the possible negative consequences of their respective productivity initiatives; global or regional catastrophic events; risks and uncertainties relating to the transaction, including the risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfully or such integration may be more difficult, time-consuming or costly than expected, which could result in additional demands on KO's or CCEP's resources, systems, procedures and controls, disruption of its ongoing business and diversion of management's attention from other business concerns, the possibility that certain assumptions with respect to CCEP or the transaction could prove to be inaccurate, the failure to receive, delays in the receipt of, or unacceptable or burdensome conditions imposed in connection with, all required regulatory approvals and the satisfaction of the closing conditions to the transaction, the potential failure to retain key employees of CCE, CCIP as a result of the proposed transaction or during integration of the businesses and disruptions resulting from the proposed transaction, making it more difficult to maintain business relationships; and other risks discussed in KO's and CCE's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), including their respective Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, which filings are available from the they are made. None of KO, CCE, CCIP or CCEP undertakes any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. None of KO, CCE, CCIP or CCEP assumes responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of any forward-looking statements. Any or all of the forward-looking statements contained in this filing and in any other of their respective public statements may prove to be incorrect.

#### **IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND WHERE TO FIND IT**

This communication does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities or a solicitation of any vote or approval.

In connection with the proposed transaction, CCEP will file with the SEC a registration statement on Form F-4 that will include a preliminary proxy statement/prospectus regarding the proposed transaction. After the registration statement has been declared effective by the SEC, a definitive proxy statement/prospectus will be mailed to CCE's stockholders in connection with the proposed transaction. **INVESTORS ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS (INCLUDING ALL AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS THERETO) AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE TRANSACTION FILED WITH THE SEC WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION.** You may obtain a copy of the proxy statement/prospectus (when available) and other related documents filed by KO, CCE or CCEP with the SEC regarding the proposed transaction as well as other filings containing information, free of charge, through the website maintained by the SEC at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), by directing a request to KO's Investor Relations department at (404) 676-2121, or to CCE's Investor Relations department at (678) 260-3110, Attn: Thor Erickson - Investor Relations. Copies of the proxy statement/prospectus and the filings with the SEC that will be incorporated by reference in the proxy statement/prospectus can also be obtained, when available, without charge, from KO's website at [www.coca-colacompany.com](http://www.coca-colacompany.com) under the heading Investors and CCE's website at [www.cokecce.com](http://www.cokecce.com) under the heading Investors.

#### **PARTICIPANTS IN SOLICITATION**

KO, CCE and CCEP and their respective directors, executive officers and certain other members of management and employees may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies in favor of the proposed merger. Information regarding the persons who may, under the rules of the SEC, be considered participants in the solicitation of proxies in favor of the proposed merger will be set forth in the proxy statement/prospectus when it

is filed with the SEC. You can find information about KO's and CCE's directors and executive officers in their respective definitive proxy statements filed with the SEC on March 12, 2015, and March 11, 2015, respectively. You can obtain free copies of these documents from KO and CCE, respectively, using the contact information above. Information regarding CCEP's directors and executive officers will be available in the proxy statement/prospectus when it is filed with the SEC.