

# PRESS RELEASE

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**Subject** CMS appoints new Chairman and strengthens  
global management structure

**CMS**

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## **CMS announces global revenues of EUR 1.36bn**

### ***New Chairman appointed and global management structure strengthened***

CMS, the leading global law firm, today announces revenues for the financial year 2018 of EUR 1.36bn. This translates into growth of 5%.

CMS created 49 new partners in the 2019 global promotions round. The new partners span 23 cities across Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, and sit across a wide range of practice and sector groups. Women have accounted for 47% of all CMS promotions globally.

In 2018, the firm also achieved leading positions by deal count in the following M&A league tables:

- #1 by Bloomberg in Europe, Germany and UK
- #1 by Mergermarket in CEE, DACH and Germany
- #1 by Thomson Reuters in Germany and UK

Outgoing Executive Chairman, Cornelius Brandi, said, “We’ve had a very strong year as we have helped clients manage and capitalise on change and uncertainty. This reflects the individual efforts of each of our 72 offices and the international collaboration which multinational clients rely upon.”

Renaud Dupont, Managing Partner of CMS Belgium, said: “2018 has seen a significant increase in revenue for the firm. As a global organisation with over 72 offices, the results show that our structure is very solid, enabling us to meet our clients’ needs both locally and internationally”.

### **New CMS Chairman and new management structure**

In addition, CMS announces that Pierre-Sébastien Thill has been selected as its new Chairman for an initial four-year term commencing immediately.

Thill is an expert in international taxation, advising clients on issues relating to M&A transactions and corporate reorganisations. He has worked at CMS for 35 years, joining the organisation in 1984, and is fluent in French, German and English. Thill was Chairman of the Supervisory Board of CMS France from 2012 to 2015 and is Executive Chairman of the Management Board, a position he also previously held from 2004 to 2012.

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Thill takes over the position following completion of Cornelius Brandi's second term as Chairman. Over the last eight years, CMS has achieved a compound annual growth rate of 8% while expanding into 18 new countries.

Brandi added, "It has been extremely gratifying to have played a role in the success story of CMS. The business context for many of our clients has changed beyond all recognition over the last eight years. We've changed with them, embedding global practice and sector group expertise and initiating several firm-wide technology projects. Pierre-Sébastien Thill, with his long experience in law firm management and his key contribution to the development of our strategy, is the ideal candidate to take on the chairmanship of CMS. I hand over with every confidence that the organisation will continue to flourish under his direction."

Brandi continues in his role of Senior Partner of CMS Germany and as a member of the CMS Executive Committee.

In addition to Thill's appointment, CMS has confirmed a new management structure in which Duncan Weston and Matthias Lichtblau will work alongside Thill as an executive team.

Weston, as Executive Partner, is responsible for the implementation of the overall global strategy of CMS as well as for the organisation's financial results, client-related technology initiatives and business development.

Lichtblau continues as Executive Director of CMS with overall responsibility for all operational functions of the executive team and of CMS Legal Services EEIG, the service unit for all CMS firms.

Thill, who has also served as Vice-Chairman of CMS since 2017, said, "Our clients are operating in a challenging environment, yet they continue to deliver productivity gains and enter new markets. We share their global mindset and when clients come to CMS, they know that they can rely on quality advice and service delivery in almost every major jurisdiction.

"But we know that we cannot stand still. We're committed to transforming our business to reflect client demand and the ways in which they are transforming their own businesses. Cornelius Brandi has been an attentive and hard-working steward of CMS and I would like to thank him for handing over the organisation in such good shape for the future. I'm looking forward to working closely with Matthias and Duncan in driving the strategy forward during an exciting time for CMS."

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**Notes to editors:**

Founded in 1999, CMS is a full-service top 10 international law firm, based on the number of lawyers (Am Law 2018 Global 100). With 70+ offices in 40+ countries across the world, employing over 4,800 lawyers, CMS has longstanding expertise both at advising in its local jurisdictions and across borders. CMS acts for a large number of Fortune 500 companies and the FT European 500 and for the majority of the DAX 30. Revenues totalled EUR 1.36bn in 2018.

CMS provides a wide range of expertise across 19 expert practice and sector areas, including Corporate/M&A, Energy, Funds, Life Sciences & Healthcare, TMC, Tax, Banking & Finance, Commercial, Competition & EU, Dispute Resolution, Employment & Pensions, Intellectual Property and Real Estate & Construction.

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