

# Supporting you in Austria and CEE/SEE



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# About CMS

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CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz (CMS Austria) is a leading law firm in Austria and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), with a rich history spanning more than 50 years, including over 20 years of dedicated service in CEE.

**Established 1970**

**10 offices/countries**

**60+ partners**

**170+ legal professionals**

**360+ total staff**

Established in Vienna in 1970, our firm provides comprehensive legal and tax advice, supported by a team of over 360 professionals in Vienna, as well as 10 additional offices across the CEE region: Belgrade, Bratislava, Istanbul, Ljubljana, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Skopje, Sofia, and Zagreb.

We have a full understanding of the local as well as the regional markets and our unparalleled presence in Europe is a key factor that distinguishes us from the rest of the market and allows you to access cross-border services without having to deal with several law firms or compromise quality.

## The CMS network

As part of the CMS network, a Top 10 Global Law Firm, we are present in 40+ countries and 80+ offices worldwide. More than 6,800 CMS lawyers offer our clients business-focused advice tailored to your needs, whether in your local market or across multiple jurisdictions.



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## What we can do for you

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CMS is a full-service firm and have expertise in numerous areas. Several of our lawyers are also ranked on international rating agencies, such as Chambers, Legal 500 and JUVÉ. Having all our experts in one place means that we can provide cohesive services and be a “one-stop shop” for our clients.



Banking & Finance



Commercial



Antitrust, Competition  
and Trade



Consumer Products



Corporate/M&A



Dispute Resolution



Employment &  
Pensions



Energy & Climate  
Change



Funds



Hotels & Leisure



Infrastructure &  
Projects



Insurance



Intellectual Property



Life Sciences &  
Healthcare



Private Equity



Public Procurement



Real Estate &  
Construction



Tax



Technology, Media &  
Communications







# CMS Asia-Pacific

30

Number of  
partners in the region

>90

Number of  
lawyers in the region



Offering  
innovative  
legal tech  
solutions

6

Asia-Pacific

Beijing  
Brisbane  
Shanghai  
Hong Kong

Singapore  
Sydney



Ranked as one of the **Top 50** Largest Law Firms in Asia and **Top 30** Largest Law Firms in China by Asian Legal Business.

Legal 500

Chambers and  
Partners

#1 Tier 1

#3 Band 2

#7 Tier 2

#7 Band 3

#8 Tier 3

#2 Band 4

#10 Tier 4

One of only a handful of law firms in Asia providing **civil and common law** advice.

Expertise delivered in **English, French, German** and other European languages, as well as **Mandarin, Malay, Cantonese, Bahasa Indonesia, Japanese, Sinhalese, Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi and Tamil**.

A partner-led presence in **Australia**, and practice desks for **India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and South Korea** comprising of CMS lawyers from across the firm to advise clients with a presence or interest in the region.

Qualified to provide **both local and international law advice** in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Helping start-ups grow in Greater China (including Hong Kong) and Singapore with the **CMS equiP** international programme.

"CMS is the best-in-class in terms of quality of service, breadth of experience and knowledge, geographical coverage, responsiveness and transparency."

*Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2024*

"The lawyers we worked with had depth of experience; they were confident and knowledgeable."

*Chambers Asia Pacific, 2024*

"CMS are very responsive, and the legal advice and recommendations given are very to the point."

"Their advice is quick, clear and commercial."

"They always provide commercial advice which is easy for our business to digest."

*Chambers Greater China, 2024*

We have been assisting clients in doing business in Asia-Pacific for many years. Whether clients are conducting major cross-border transactions or complex disputes or seeking inbound or outbound investment opportunities, or regional regulatory advice, we can help.

**A Hong Kong conglomerate** | Advising on the HKD 233m sale of its 60% stake in a company, which operates major inner harbour ferry routes in Hong Kong under licences issued by the Hong Kong Government, to a subsidiary of a Chinese state-owned enterprise.

**ShopBack** | Advised as lead counsel to Ecommerce Enablers (ShopBack) on its USD 44m acquisition of the Hoolah group – which is involved in the burgeoning Buy-Now-Pay-Later sector. Launched in Singapore in 2018, Hoolah is regarded as the pioneer in the BNPL space in Southeast Asia.

**SMA Solar Technology AG** | Advising on the sale of 100% of shares in its China subsidiaries. This included advice on the management buy-out, setting up a new WFOE and employee transfer as well as drafting of all transaction documents.

**An Asia-based global biopharmaceutical company** | Advising on a USD 6bn ICC arbitration arising from a licensing dispute with a European counterparty. The case involves multiple proceedings in several jurisdictions.

**A US pharmaceutical company** | Advising on performing multiple FTO analyses and investigations into competitor companies and their relevant patent estates in China.

**A rapidly growing regional ride-hailing and financial services company** | Advising on its USD 500m expansion in Southeast Asia, including Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines.

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# Working with Asian clients in CEE and Austria

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**Mori Seiki** | Advising the leading Japanese manufacturer of machine tools on merger control issues during its increase of shares up to 21% in the German tool manufacturer, Gildemeister.

**A global provider of automotive electronics and diagnostic equipment** | Providing an ongoing advice to an automotive supplier in strategic patent law matters in Austria.

**Panasonic** | Advising the multinational electronics company based in Japan on copy right matters in Austria.

**Major Japanese automotive manufacturer** | Supporting the leading Japanese car company on EU and competition law.

**A Japanese multinational corporation and conglomerate** | Advising the client on the implementation of the group-wide compliance management system in Austria and other European countries.

**Yokogawa Electric Corporation** | Advising the Japanese electrical engineering and software company on company restructuring in Austria and CEE.

**Daihen Corporation** | Advising the Japanese welding equipment and welding robots' manufacturer, on the acquisition of Varstroj, the Lendava company in the same line of business, including SPA negotiations and subsequent takeover procedure resulting in 97% shareholding.

**A Japanese multinational corporation specializing in the manufacture of imaging and optical products** | Advising the client on the corporate restructuring of its Austrian subsidiary and the implementation of the compliance management system in Vienna and all CEE countries.

**Leading Japanese pharmaceutical company** | Advising the client on transforming its wholesale model for high value, regulated drugs. Work included designing a preferred supplier system, drafting a new contractual framework, and providing commercial, competition and regulatory guidance to support implementation and strategic alignment.

**Astellas Pharma** | Advising on commercial, regulatory, and compliance matters across CEE. Our support included reviewing key agreements, assessing risks of liability, and ensuring compliance with KYC and ABC regulations. We also guided the client on public procurement, licensing, and operational setup, helping them navigate the region's complex legal landscape.

**Kansai Helios Coating GmbH** | Advising on merger control and obtaining unconditional clearances in Serbia, North Macedonia, and Montenegro in connection with Kansai Helios'

**Japanese multinational electronics company** | Advising on a potential reorganization across multiple jurisdictions, including Serbia, with a focus on severance entitlements and best

regional acquisitions, including Weilburger Coatings and Zorka Color.

practice for voluntary packages in redundancy scenarios.

**Canon** | Advising on corporate, commercial, compliance, and regulatory matters in CEE, including public procurement, employment, recycling obligations, language requirements for B2C manuals, and representation in antitrust and criminal proceedings.

**A Chinese software company** | Advising a Chinese semiconductor manufacturer on cryptocurrencies, domains, and trademark law in connection to a trademark infringement matter on counterfeit website in Austria.

**A global packaging producer** | Advising a global packaging producer on the acquisition of a majority interest in a Malaysian label producer.

**A Chinese tea drink chain** | Advising the popular tea brand in connection with its market entry in Austria as well as on trademark strategy matters.

**Bank of China** | Advising one of the largest banks in the world on the establishment of a bank in Serbia and banking regulations related to the bank operation in Serbia, as well as advising on a EUR 125+ million commodity and infrastructure loan granted to Telekom Srbija, the incumbent telecommunications operator

**A pharmaceutical company specialising in biotechnology research** | Representing the client in an arbitration proceeding in Hong Kong in connection with disputes regarding patent licences and failure to apply for SPCs. The client has licenced its essential pharmaceutical patents to an Austrian life science company.

**Scholz Group** | Advising the world's leading company in collection, sorting, processing and trading with metal scrap, owned by the leading Chinese recycler, Chiho Environmental Group, on merger control procedure in Serbia.

**A Chinese financial institution** | CMS is advising a major globally active Chinese financial institution on all aspects of the financing of the construction of a thermal co-generation power plant and heating plant in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Jiangsu Zhongtian Technology Co., Ltd. (ZTT)** | Advising the client on the acquisition of the Turkish company Demirer Kablo from Saudi Cable Company for USD 66.7 m.

**A leading plastic packaging company** | Advising the client on the acquisition of 100% of the shares in a plastic packaging group based in Indonesia.

**PBZ Bank, Croatia** | Advising on financing USD 25 m construction of a vessel in a Chinese shipyard for a Croatian ship-owner.

**An Asian hotel chain** | Representing an Asian hotel chain on the development of a new hotel in Croatia.

**An Asian telecommunications company** | Advising the client on regulatory and commercial issues in connection with their envisaged launch of a B2B internet service in Austria.

**A Chinese water project developer** | Advising the client on the acquisition of an Austrian water and wastewater treatment technology company.



*"The team's reliability and knowledge of local legislation stands out. I can rely on the advice, and also on its availability on short notice."*

Chambers & Partners, Europe Guide 2024

*"Across territories, we had at our disposal members throughout the hierarchy, with associates and other junior members, mid-level members such as managing associates, through to partners. It is clear that CMS is a well-oiled machine."*

Chambers & Partners, Europe Guide 2024

*"We like them being a global firm and appreciate the level of internal communication. We have a main point of contact responsible for us everywhere in the region."*

Chambers & Partners, Europe Guide 2024

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## Key contacts

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Peter Huber is a Corporate/M&A lawyer. He is a partner and head of the CMS Austria international transaction team and has decades of professional experience in corporate transactions, including more than four years at leading investment banks. His areas of expertise are M&A (including privatisations and public takeovers) and corporate law (including corporate governance) in Austria and Central and Eastern Europe.

Peter Huber advises numerous large Austrian companies and major shareholders as well as shareholder groups on corporate transactions, restructurings, shareholder agreements and governance structures as well as on legal issues arising from shareholder activism. He also advises large private equity firms on investments and exits.

He has authored numerous publications in the field of corporate and takeover law as well as the leading commentary on the Austrian Takeover Act.



**Irene Ng (黄英)**

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Irene Ng Šega is Head of the APAC Desk and Senior Attorney (Singapore, New York) for the Corporate/M&A practice area at CMS. As one of the few lawyers in Austria admitted to practice in Southeast Asia and the US and with professional experience in both Asia and Europe, she regularly works with international clients looking to expand their presence in Asia or Europe.

Irene Ng Šega also has a strong interest in legal technology and legal informatics, which she continues to broaden and deepen during her secondment as a Senior Project Manager at Lupl Inc, a legal technology start-up from 2020-2022, as well as through her academic work. She is a regular academic contributor and a Fellow of the Stanford-Vienna Transatlantic Technology Law Forum (TTLF).



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Further information can be found at **cms.law**