**Press release**

Vienna, 3 March 2011

**CMS advises on largest foreign investment in Serbia: Delhaize buys retail chain Delta Maxi Group**

**CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz has advised the Belgian retail group Delhaize on the acquisition of the leading Serbian retail store chain Delta Maxi Group in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia as well as Montenegro. “At a purchase price of EUR 932.5 m, it is the largest private transaction of all time in Serbia,” says Radivoje Petrikić, partner and CEE coordinator at CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz. Closing of the deal is expected for the third quarter of 2011. The acquisition is yet to be approved by the Serbian competition authorities.**

“In this takeover, the combination of international and local legal expertise was crucial,” Radivoje Petrikić explains. “This transaction and its astonishing legal complexity and immense scope have added a new dimension to M&A deals in Serbia.”

Delta Maxi operates 450 stores and employs 15,000 people in Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Albania. Turnover for 2011 is estimated to range between EUR 1.35 and 1.4 bn. Delhaize Group already owns stores in Greece and Romania; this transaction will turn the group into one of the largest retail store chains in Southeast Europe.

A current picture of Radivoje Petrikićis available at <http://sites.cms-rrh.com/downloads/petrikic.zip>

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CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz was founded in Vienna in 1970 and has since emerged as one of the leading specialists in all areas of commercial and labour law. Highly-specialized teams consisting of internationally experienced lawyers primarily provide services in the following fields of law: M&A, banking and finance, real estate, taxes, labour laws, IP and IT laws, and public procurement. The company operates offices in Vienna, Belgrade, Bratislava, Brussels, Kiev, Ljubljana, Sarajevo, Sofia and Zagreb. All CMS offices together offer clients a team of more than 500 experienced specialists in 13 offices across the CEE/SEE region.

CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz is one of the founding members of CMS, the association of leading European legal firms and tax consultants. At present, CMS operates a network consisting of more than 700 partners, 2,800 lawyers and tax consultants, and a total of 5,000 employees working on behalf of its clients. www.cms-rrh.com

**About CMS**

CMS aims to be recognised as the best European provider of legal and tax services. Clients say that what makes CMS special is a combination of three things:

Strong, trusted client relationships

High quality advice

Industry specialization

We combine deep local expertise and the most extensive presence in Europe with cross-border consistency and coordination.

CMS has a common culture and a shared heritage which make us distinctively European. CMS operates in 27 jurisdictions, with 53 offices in Western and Central Europe and beyond. CMS was established in 1999 and today comprises nine CMS firms, employing over 2,800 lawyers. CMS is headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany.

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