

Press release

Vienna, July 22, 2010

NEW EDITION OF CMS GUIDE TO MERGER CONTROL IN EUROPE

CMS, one of the leading providers of legal and tax advice in Europe, has published the fourth edition of the *CMS Guide to Merger Control in Europe*. The guide offers detailed information across 44 European merger control regimes, drawing on the expertise and experience of over 140 CMS anti-trust experts from 21 European countries.

The *CMS Guide to Merger Control in Europe 2009* offers a comprehensive overview of all 44 European merger control regimes, including merger control pursuant to the European Merger Control Regulation and the European Economic Area Agreement. The guide, drawn up by the international law firm CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz in cooperation with its CMS partner firms, comes with a CD-ROM and brings together the expertise and experience of more than 140 anti-trust law experts of the CMS Competition Practice Group from 21 European countries.

Cartel authorities: despite crisis, more lenient approach to merger control not to be expected

Today, virtually all European countries have implemented merger control regimes. Increasingly, competition authorities across Europe are imposing hefty fines on companies that fail to register corporate transactions. Most recently, the European Commission demonstrated this by imposing a fine of EUR 20 million on a company for having implemented an acquisition without prior approval from Brussels. In some cases, authorities are delaying approval of mergers because they do not feel obliged to adhere to inspection periods when a merger has been carried out without prior clearance. A panel discussion at the 3 June 2009 meeting of the International Competition Network (ICN) suggested that competition authorities appear unlikely to take a more lenient approach during the economic crisis. Therefore, merger controls are more relevant than ever – properly planned transactions will save companies time and money.

Bernt Elsner, expert on EU competition law and managing partner at CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz, says, “The *CMS Guide to Merger Control in Europe 2009* gives an excellent first overview of merger control regulations in all European countries. Just like the previous editions, the current edition focuses on topics of merger control that are most important in practice. It is thus ideal for company lawyers structuring and advising on transactions.”

Dick Tyler, CMS executive partner, says, “The *CMS Guide to Merger Control in Europe* is yet another proof of CMS’ strong teamwork in Western, Central and Eastern Europe. At the same time, it is the product of truly European expertise in anti-trust law.”

Order your personal copy of the *CMS Guide to Merger Control in Europe 2009* at www.cms-rrh.com/mergercontrol.

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About CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz

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 600 partners, 2,200 lawyers and tax consultants, and a total of 4,600 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 2,400 lawyers. CMS is headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany.

CMS member firms are: CMS Adonnino Ascoli & Cavasola Scamoni (Italy); CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo, S.L.P. (Spain); CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre (France); CMS Cameron McKenna LLP (UK); CMS DeBacker (Belgium); CMS Derks Star Busmann (The Netherlands); CMS von Erlach Henrici Ltd. (Switzerland); CMS Hasche Sigle (Germany) and CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz Rechtsanwälte GmbH (Austria).

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The members of CMS are in association with The Levant Lawyers with offices in Abu Dhabi, Beirut, Dubai and Kuwait City.
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