

PRESS RELEASE

CMS Legal Services EEIG

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Subject	CMS partners with Saudi Arabian law firm

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CMS partners with Saudi Arabian law firm

- CMS will work in association with Saudi Arabian law firm Feras Al Shawaf.
- The firms have agreed to an exclusive partnership for international business, with Feras Al Shawaf handling domestic work.
- The Saudi Arabian firm will add to CMS's existing presence in Algeria, Iran, Morocco, Oman, Turkey and the UAE, with associated offices in Iraq and Lebanon.

Frankfurt, 12 September 2017 – CMS will partner with Feras Al Shawaf, a Saudi Arabian law firm based in Riyadh in an exclusive agreement. In addition to referral work, the two firms will seek opportunities for working together in Saudi Arabia, where clients require not only local know how but also the expertise of an international firm in various areas of law and industry sectors.

CMS now has one of the most extensive footprints in the MENA region. The Saudi Arabian firm will add to CMS's existing presence in Algeria, Iran, Morocco, Oman, Turkey and the UAE, with associated offices in Iraq and Lebanon. Dubai is the hub of CMS's MENA operations, with more than 100 lawyers across the region. In Dubai, the team will be relocating to a new office in Burj Daman in the DIFC in September 2017.

With the expansion into Saudi Arabia, the largest economy in the Middle East, CMS is now connecting key business locations across the region. This is a similar strategy to that followed in Latin America. In January 2017, three Latin American firms from Chile, Colombia and Peru joined the firm, adding to CMS's existing presence in Brazil and Mexico. By connecting offices, CMS creates seamless regional solutions.

For clients in the Middle East, CMS will link them with leading legal experts worldwide, supporting their internationalisation and participation in cross-border transactions and disputes. For clients outside the region, the linkage of the CMS offices means that any business that they plan in the Middle East can be supported by a team consisting of their local contacts and lawyers on the ground who speak the language and know the jurisdictions.

Duncan Weston, CMS Executive Partner for Global Development, commented, “MENA is a dynamic growth region that is gaining importance for our clients and Saudi Arabia is the largest economy in the region. Our Middle East offices, particularly the Dubai office, have been working with Feras Al Shawaf for some time. Now as associated firms, CMS and Feras Al Shawaf will intensify this relationship, setting up an integrated team to ensure that a full and efficient service is provided at the right level.”

Feras Al Shawaf, Senior Partner at Feras Al Shawaf, commented, “CMS and Feras Al Shawaf have agreed to an exclusive association to seek and build on work opportunities in Saudi Arabia. With clients undertaking transformational projects as part of Vision 2030, Al Shawaf and CMS will bring their expertise together to better service those clients’ needs. Together with CMS, we can now offer our local and regional clients access to more than 4,500 lawyers worldwide who can support them with their business.”

CMS brings market-leading expertise in PPPs, infrastructure and TMC to the partnership. In the Middle East, CMS also has particular expertise in Construction, Energy, Banking and Islamic Finance, Lifesciences & Healthcare, Hotels and Leisure, Education and Real Estate.

Feras Al Shawaf provides deep local expertise and has strong relationships with key players in Saudi Arabia. The firm's focus areas include Corporate Law, Commercial Law, Intellectual Property, Telecommunications Law, Litigation, Arbitration, Labour Law, Banking and Finance, Private Equity/Investment Law, Projects and Finance, Commercial Agencies and Franchises.

Cornelius Brandi, Executive Chairman of CMS, commented, “The partnership with Feras Al Shawaf is another good example of what sets CMS apart: pairing global vision with local experience. With our combined expertise, we will offer our clients high-quality service in the Middle East and globally.”

CMS now has 72 offices in 41 countries and more than 1,000 partners and 7,500 total staff.

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About CMS

Founded in 1999, CMS is a full-service top 10 international law firm, based on the number of lawyers (Am Law 2016 Global 100). With 72 offices in 41 countries across the world, employing over 4,500 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 1.05bn in 2016.

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

For more information, please visit **cms.law**

CMS offices and associated offices: Aberdeen, Algiers, Amsterdam, Antwerp, Barcelona, Beijing, Belgrade, Berlin, Bogotá, Bratislava, Bristol, Brussels, Bucharest, Budapest, Casablanca, Cologne, Dubai, Dusseldorf, Edinburgh, Frankfurt, Geneva, Glasgow, Hamburg, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Kyiv, Leipzig, Lima, Lisbon, Ljubljana, London, Luxembourg, Lyon, Madrid, Manchester, Medellín, Mexico City, Milan, Monaco, Moscow, Munich, Muscat, Paris, Podgorica, Prague, Reading, Rio de Janeiro, Riyadh, Rome, Santiago de Chile, Sarajevo, Seville, Shanghai, Sheffield, Singapore, Sofia, Strasbourg, Stuttgart, Tehran, Tirana, Utrecht, Vienna, Warsaw, Zagreb and Zurich.

About Feras Al Shawaf

Feras Al Shawaf Law Firm was established in 1999 and has its office situated in Riyadh. The firm provides a full range of corporate, business and commercial legal services. Feras Al Shawaf Law Firm was founded by Feras Al Shawaf in 1999. Feras Al Shawaf is a member of the Saudi Arabian bar and, as the Managing Partner, is in charge of, and actively involved in, all aspects of the practice.

Feras Al Shawaf Law Firm is staffed by both Saudi Arabian and international lawyers. The Firm thus capitalises on providing services locally while maintaining international standards.

For more information, please visit www.alshawaflaw.com