

# Press release

June 27, 2008

## **CMS Legal expertise supports The Vienna Stock Exchange on its expansion to Slovenia**

- **Legal specialists from CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz advise The Vienna Stock Exchange on its successful bid for an 81.01% share in the Ljubljana Stock Exchange**
- **The Vienna Stock Exchange reinforces its goal of strengthening Central and Eastern Europe's capital market**
- **CMS is the ideal partner for cross border transactions throughout the CEE/SEE region**

### **Vienna, June 27, 2008.**

A team of transaction specialists from CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz offices in Ljubljana and Vienna advised The Vienna Stock Exchange on their acquisition of the Ljubljana Stock Exchange. For months the team led by Aleš Lunder, Brigita Kraljič and Günther Hanslik has been working closely with The Vienna Stock Exchange both in the Slovenian capital and in Vienna. The company was ultimately able to succeed against several international bidders in securing the 81,01% share in the Ljubljana Stock Exchange. The transaction requires approval by the Slovenian regulatory agency ATVP. Both parties have agreed not to disclose the purchase price.

“Our strong local presence here in Slovenia was certainly a central element for the successful cooperation with The Vienna Stock Exchange”, says Aleš Lunder, Partner at CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz and head of the office in Ljubljana which was opened only a few months ago. “Especially clients active in the CEE/SEE region value the huge advantage our local CMS teams offer them. We are locally present in every market – right where our clients need us” adds Mr. Lunder.

With more than 350 lawyers in 13 jurisdictions, CMS offers the most comprehensive network of legal services throughout the CEE/SEE region making it the ideal partner for companies active in this region, such as The Vienna Stock Exchange. Upon completion of this transaction, The Vienna Stock Exchange will be majority shareholder of two Southeast European stock exchanges and already works closely with the stock exchanges of Bucharest, Sarajevo and Banja Luka

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**About CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz**

CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz was founded in Vienna in 1970. In the meantime, it has 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. Together with its partner law firms in Budapest, Bucharest, Moscow, Prague and Warsaw, CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz offers clients a team of more than 350 experienced specialists in the CEE/SEE region.

CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz is one of the founding members of CMS, an 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.

**About The Vienna Stock Exchange**

Today, the Vienna Stock Exchange, which was founded in 1771, is a modern customer and market-oriented financial service company that plays a pivotal role in the Austrian capital market. The core business of the Vienna Stock Exchange is to operate cash market trading (equity market, bond market) and a derivatives market as well as trading in structured products. The Vienna Stock Exchange has become successfully established as a global expert for indices. Today, over 80% of all structured products worldwide relating to Eastern Europe are based on the indices created by the Vienna Stock Exchange. Currently, the Vienna Stock Exchange calculates 34 indices of which 24 replicate the regional, national and sector developments of CEE countries.

Even in a globally difficult market environment the Vienna Stock Exchange proves to be quite stable and to stand on firm ground. The ATX, the leading index of the Vienna Stock Exchange, boasted by the end of May 2008 a gain of some 282% over year-end 2002. The average monthly trading volumes were at EUR 13.5bn as of 31 May 2008, a gain of more than 750% since 2003.