

C/M/S/ Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo

PRESS RELEASE

Felipe Alonso joins CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo as Managing Partner of the Tax Department

- Felipe Alonso, from the law firm Baker & McKenzie, will join CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo in September with a team of professionals to reinforce its strategic advice in relation to tax matters.

Madrid, July 16 2009.- CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo has today announced in the press the integration of a team of professionals headed by tax law and tax-procedural specialist Felipe Alonso from the Madrid office of the international law firm Baker & McKenzie. With this incorporation, CMS Albiñana & Suarez de Lezo will reinforce its current team and give a strong strategic boost to its tax department.

Felipe Alonso will join the firm in September 2009 as managing partner of the Tax Department of CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo, working in coordination with Santiago Diez and a team comprising of 16 professionals between the Madrid, Seville and Marbella offices.

For the new managing partner, the integration in CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo will become a new phase and a new challenge after his experience of almost a decade in the international firm Baker & McKenzie in which he has worked during the last nine years.

This incorporation responds to the politics of the office, directed by César Albiñana and Rafael Suárez de Lezo, of including the best professionals and the most qualified in the market, with teams that provide first-class advice in all legal practice areas, offering the best and most complete service to its clients. Besides, given the conjunction of capacities, an important growth in this department is foreseen in the next years.

The incorporation of Felipe Alonso and his team will permit CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo to reinforce its strategic advice in relation to tax matters (company restructures; tax optimisation in restructuring transactions, national and international tax optimisation, advocacy in appeals and economic-administrative claims, etc).

Felipe Alonso possesses a wide experience in taxation. Among other acknowledgments, he is listed in *The European Legal 500* and the *Chambers Global*, where he is recognised as "a tax expert providing high quality advice in procedures regarding procedural tax law". Alonso is a Tax Inspector currently on leave of absence (1989) and has performed the position as general sub director of legal ordinance and legal assistance to the Spanish General Directorate for Tax Inspection and Treasury Department.

"Personally it is an enormous satisfaction to form part of CMS Albiñana & Suárez of Lezo, where we will contribute a strategic impulse to the area of taxation and, more concretely, to that of tax litigation, in a moment in which the business requires a greater specialization in a context of increase in the activity", underlines Felipe Alonso.

For César Albiñana Cilveti, managing partner of CMS Albiñana & Suarez of Lezo "for us it is a great pride to include Felipe Alonso and his group of professionals because they are the best option for our office; with him we incorporate a magnificent, highly qualified team with great experience and capacity to give our future and current clients more complete, in-depth advice".

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CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo in figures. In 2008, CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo invoiced EUR 19.65 million in transactions, which represents an 11.6% increase compared to the previous year, and shows the firm's growth tendency in a year that was marked by economic difficulties.

The firm, led by Rafael Suárez de Lezo and César Albiñana Cilveti, is currently comprised of 80 attorneys, 18 partners, and –since 2005- is a member of CMS, the international organisation of the major European law firms, and the most important independent network in Europe.

CMS member firms: CMS Adonnino Ascoli & Cavasola Scamoni (Italy), CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo (Spain), CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre (France), CMS Cameron McKenna LLP (United Kingdom), CMS DeBacker (Belgium) , CMS Derks Star Busmann (The Netherlands), CMS von Erlach Henrici AG (Switzerland), CMS Hasche Sigle (Germany), CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz (Austria). CMS has 54 offices in 28 jurisdictions in Central and Western Europe, North and South America, Asia, and North Africa. CMS is incorporated as a European Economic Interest Group based in Frankfurt. The members of CMS are in association with The Levant Lawyers with offices in Beirut, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Kuwait-City.

CMS has been classified by *Chambers & Partners* as the best alliance in the emergent countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and was named the best law firm in Central and Eastern Europe by *PLC Whichlawyer?* in 2008.