

PRESS RELEASE

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Page 1 of 2

Subject CMS expands in Norway

CMS

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CMS expands in Norway

CMS joins forces with fast growing and top-ranking law firm in Norway, uniting over common goals in energy, renewables and ESG

Frankfurt, 15 June 2021. The leading global law firm CMS announces that Kluge has today joined it as a full member firm. With onboarding expected to be complete by October, the Norwegian firm with its 100-year legacy will henceforth be known as CMS Kluge.

The addition of Kluge and its deep local market understanding further strengthens CMS's presence in key business hubs in Europe. For over 20 years, CMS has developed a track record of partnering with like-minded, independent firms with a rich heritage that are focused on the delivery of excellence for clients. In 2019 two African firms and in 2017 three Latin American firms joined CMS. As of today, CMS has 79 offices in 44 countries and more than 5,000 lawyers worldwide. Kluge has 153 lawyers, with offices in Bergen, Oslo and Stavanger.

CMS and Kluge have strong synergies in energy expertise, in particular renewables, as well as M&A and technology, which provide significant opportunities for cross-border advisory and transaction work for both firms. Supporting clients as they navigate the ESG agenda and the journey to net zero carbon and clean energy is of vital importance to both firms and will form a large part of their continued growth.

Pierre-Sébastien Thill, CMS Chairman, said, "Kluge's local expertise and international mindset, as well as excellent reputation, are a good strategic fit for CMS as we strengthen our foothold in key European markets and continue on our path to become a genuinely global law firm."

Matthias Lichtblau, CMS Executive Director, said, "Our clients see Norway as a major opportunity since it's a highly successful export-oriented economy, with an increased focus towards renewable energy and more sustainable business. Many CMS clients are already active in the region, so building a presence there is a natural step for us. Also, clients in Norway will now have full access to CMS, one of the top global legal organisations."

Norwegian firms are increasingly requesting advice on cross-border business. This expansion will enable CMS to have a presence in the Norwegian market, while Kluge will benefit by strengthening its international profile, further fuelling its already strong growth and gaining access to CMS's existing global client base.

CMS Legal Services EEIG (CMS EEIG) is a European Economic Interest Grouping that coordinates an organisation of independent law firms. CMS EEIG provides no client services. Such services are solely provided by CMS EEIG's member firms in their respective jurisdictions. CMS EEIG and each of its member firms are separate and legally distinct entities, and no such entity has any authority to bind any other. CMS EEIG and each member firm are liable only for their own acts or omissions and not those of each other. The brand name "CMS" and the term "firm" are used to refer to some or all of the member firms or their offices.

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

Bjørnar Alterskjær, Managing Partner at Kluge, said, “Our clients increasingly expect that we can provide seamless legal advice on cross-border matters. By joining CMS, we will become part of a unique collaborative structure and be able to efficiently draw upon a large pool of highly specialised resources all over the world.”^a

Renaud Dupont, Managing Partner of CMS Belgium: “We look forward to collaborating with our Norwegian colleagues and the opportunity to strengthen our position in Europe and worldwide.”

New technology will have a huge impact on the way legal services will be provided to clients in the future. By joining a large global law firm such as CMS, Kluge will be able to invest in and utilise the best available legal technology for the benefit of its clients.

CMS’s strategy is to develop a strong Nordic platform and together with Kluge from its first foothold in Norway will develop business opportunities in this high-growth region that could benefit from a holistic approach.

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CMS

Founded in 1999, CMS is an integrated, multi-jurisdictional organisation of law firms that offers full-service legal and tax advice. With more than 79 offices in over 44 countries across the world and more than 5,000 lawyers, CMS has long-standing expertise both in advising in its local jurisdictions and across borders. From major multinationals and mid-caps to enterprising start-ups, CMS provides the technical rigour, strategic excellence and long-term partnership to keep each client ahead in its chosen markets. The CMS member firms provide a wide range of expertise across 19 practice areas and sectors, including Corporate/M&A, Energy & Climate Change, Funds, Life Sciences & Healthcare, TMC, Tax, Banking & Finance, Commercial, Competition & EU, Dispute Resolution, Employment & Pensions, Intellectual Property and Real Estate & Construction.

For more information, please visit cms.law

Kluge

Kluge is a full-service Norwegian law firm with 53 partners and over 200 employees, established in 1923, with offices in Norway’s capital Oslo, the energy hub Stavanger and in Norway’s second largest city, Bergen. Kluge is one of Norway’s fastest growing law firms, with a strong presence in the Norwegian business and legal community and a strong position within energy, construction, infrastructure and public sector.

More information: <https://kluge.no/en/>