

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **CMS named the CEE Legal Adviser of the Year by Financial Times & Mergermarket - Challenging times make for outstanding dealmakers.**

CMS has been named the CEE Legal Adviser of the Year at the Financial Times (FT) & Mergermarket M&A Awards Gala last night.

The awards have earned a reputation as the industry standard for corporate, private equity, investment banking and legal M&A expertise. Firms are shortlisted by statistical analysis of Mergermarket's M&A database, an authoritative source of M&A league tables, before a panel of independent expert judges decide on a winner for each category.

This year's judging panel included executives from KKR, AXA Private Equity, Philips, GE, Barclays, Iberdrola and Credit Suisse who considered the complexity and strategic significance of all highlighted deals. CMS faced stiff competition from other shortlisted firms in the CEE category including A&O, DLA Piper, Weil Gotshal & Manges and White & Case.

Thomas Meyding, the CMS Head of Corporate Group said: 'We are extremely pleased to win this prestigious award, recognising the expertise of our team and the significance of the deals we have worked on in the CEE region.'

Helen Rodwell, the CEE Head of Corporate Group added: 'This award is further proof that with 20 years experience in the region we have become the preferred M&A adviser to top corporates and financial institutions operating in CEE.'

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CMS lawyers immerse themselves in their clients' business. This enables them to deliver the most effective legal and tax solutions. Both leading domestic and major global corporations work with CMS' 2,800 lawyers across 53 offices in Europe, Russia, China, North Africa and South America.

Clients select CMS because it has the most extensive footprint in Europe of any firm. CMS provides local and industry sector insight, global project management and its specialist teams work hard to add value to their projects, wherever they are taking place.

Established in 1999, CMS today comprises ten member firms, all experienced in their local jurisdictions. This expertise means that clients receive high-quality advice in the local context. CMS firms posted a combined turnover of EUR 808m in 2011. For more information, please visit [www.cmslegal.com](http://www.cmslegal.com).