

# PRESS RELEASE

**Date** 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
**Page(s)** 2  
**Subject** **CMS advises Steiermärkische Sparkasse on Bank Purchase in Northern Macedonia**

**CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz  
Rechtsanwälte GmbH**  
Gauermannngasse 2  
1010 Vienna  
Austria

cms.law

T +43 1 40443-4000  
F +43 1 40443-94000  
E presse@cms-rrh.com

---

## CMS advises Steiermärkische Sparkasse on Bank Purchase in Northern Macedonia

**On 28 February 2019, Steiermärkische Sparkasse und Bank AG signed a share purchase agreement with Société Générale in order to acquire all its shares in Republic of Northern Macedonia-listed Ohridska Banka Societe Generale (OBSG), amounting to approximately 74.53 % of OBSG's share capital. This transaction significantly strengthens Steiermärkische Sparkasse's existing market position in Northern Macedonia. The buyer was advised by the international law firm CMS.**

The bank purchase will be carried out within the framework of a mandatory offer, which covers all shares issued by OBSG, including the shares held by the remaining minority shareholders. The implementation is subject to the approval of the European Central Bank and the National Bank of the Republic of Northern Macedonia, as well as the relevant capital market supervisory authorities and the competition authorities.

*"We are delighted to have successfully supported our client in this challenging transaction. The legal structuring of this bank acquisition was new territory in many respects, with our teams in Vienna and Skopje working very closely together,"* said CMS Lead Partner Peter Huber, Head of Corporate Transactions in Vienna.

Teams from Vienna and Northern Macedonia participated in the transaction. Advising on Corporate M&A, the core team based in Vienna, which included Peter Huber (Lead Partner), Oliver Werner (attorney), Sixtus Ferdinand Kraus (attorney), Simon Cook (associate) and Mario Maier (associate), was augmented in Skopje by Marija Filipovska (Local Lead Partner), Ana Bozarova (associate) and Elena Miceva Stojchevska (associate). Dieter Zandler (partner, Vienna) and Raško Radovanović (partner, Belgrade) advised in the area of Competition and Günther Hanslik (partner, Vienna) in the area of Banking & Finance.

### CMS in Northern Macedonia

Almost exactly one year ago, CMS opened a new office in Skopje, further expanding its leading market presence in CEE with a total of ten offices.

CMS has been present in Serbia since 2005, which has always had a Macedonian desk. Over the last ten years, CMS legal experts have been involved in some of the most important projects in Northern Macedonia and have provided high-quality legal advice to some of the region's largest players in their activities in Northern Macedonia.

A picture of Peter Huber for free use is available <http://download.cms-rrh.com/presse/index.html#huber>

**- END -**

**Contact:**

**Kristijana Lastro**

Head of Marketing & Communications

T +43 1 40443 4000

E [kristijana.lastro@cms-rrh.com](mailto:kristijana.lastro@cms-rrh.com)

This and other press releases can be downloaded from our home page under [cms.law](http://cms.law).

**About CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz**

CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz is one of the leading law firms in Austria and Southeast Europe. Because we are specialists, our lawyers and tax advisors are able to provide you with advice of the highest calibre and sophistication, both from a legal perspective as well as through our industry specific know-how. Highly-specialised teams consisting of internationally experienced lawyers primarily provide services in the following fields of law: M&A, banking and finance, real estate, construction law, taxes, labour laws, IP and IT laws, and public procurement.

We not only create sound legal solutions for you but also work to create pragmatic solutions, also with regards to your commercial goals. Our solutions correspond as much as possible to your company's business needs. We operate offices in Vienna, Belgrade, Bratislava, Brussels, Istanbul, Kiev, Ljubljana, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Skopje, Sofia and Zagreb. All CMS offices together offer clients a team of more than 600 experienced specialists in 17 offices across the CEE/SEE region. [cms.law](http://cms.law)

**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 71 offices in 40 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 1,3bn in 2017.

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](http://cms.law)

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