

C/M/S/ Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo

PRESS RELEASE

CMS Albiñana & Suarez de Lezo strengthens its Public and Regulatory departments and appoints a new Competition partner.

- Diego Crespo has been appointed partner of the Competition department
- Felix Plasencia and Javier Torre de Silva will manage the Public and Regulatory practice along with José Giménez

Madrid, 27 July 2009 – The law firm CMS Albiñana & Suarez de Lezo has approved a restructure of its Competition and Public and Regulatory departments with the incorporation to the latter of Felix Plasencia and Javier Torre de Silva as directing partners, and the appointment of Diego Crespo as a new partner in the Competition department.

These changes, which were approved at the most recent CMS-ASL meeting of partners are in response to the need to strengthen and improve the performance both of the Public and Regulatory departments and the Competition department, areas in which the firm has gathered widespread acknowledgement for their expertise.

With this latest reorganisation, the Public and Regulatory department encompasses the practice of Town-Planning, Energy, Environmental and Insurance law. The firm wishes to strengthen this area through prestigious and highly experienced appointments in order to cope with the increase in business. This department will now have three directors - those appointed most recently - and José Giménez, who has been solely responsible for Public and Regulatory law up to this time.

The partners have also decided to strengthen the Competition department, led by Jesús Alfaro, with the appointment of Diego Crespo as partner, in order to boost the strategic advice regarding matters such as horizontal and vertical agreements, control of concentrations in merger transactions, legal and economic advice in anti-trust, state aid, etc.

The Competition team at CMS Albiñana & Suarez de Lezo is comprised of seven experts, and in the near future will incorporate new senior lawyers and collaborators to reinforce the strategic advice in this practice of law.

Felix Plasencia, who has been linked to the Firm since early 2007, has been State Attorney since 2000 and has worked as co-ordinator for the Legal Assistance for the National Commission for Securities Market and as State Attorney/Co-ordinator for the State in the National Court. Since January 2007 he has formed part of the Public and Regulatory law

department of CMS Albiñana & Suarez de Lezo, in which he now assumes new responsibilities.

Javier Torre de Silva, is a member of the State Council (now on leave of absence), of various Arbitration Courts and Doctor of Law from the Royal College Spain in Bologna-Bologna University. He began as part of the firm in February 1996 where he has occupied various roles such as Director of the Civil, Town-Planning and Environmental department, up to now where he has a new role as director of the Public and Regulatory law department.

Diego Crespo, appointed as partner of CMS Albiñana & Suarez de Lezo, was incorporated to the firm in 1998, and has continued his professional development and career with the Competition department since its inception. He is a lawyer and economist with wide experience in control of concentrations and restrictive competition practices, in addition to matters such as distribution and energy.

The Chambers International directory 2009 has listed CMS Albiñana & Suarez de Lezo as one of the Spanish law firms which has significant development and performance both in the area of Competition and Public and Regulatory law.

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 lawyers and 19 partners since the incorporation to the tax department of Felipe Alonso from Baker & McKenzie as managing partner.

CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo has its headquarters in Madrid and has offices in Sevilla and Marbella. Since 2005 it has been a member of CMS, the international organisation of the major European law firms, and the most important independent network in Europe.

The CMS organisation

CMS Albiñana & Suarez de Lezo is a member of the CMS organisation www.cmslegal.com the largest organisation of independent law firms in Europe which offers their clients a wide variety of legal and tax services, based on a deep knowledge of their business. The international alliance operates in 48 cities across the world, comprising of more than 595 partners and 2,400 legal and tax counsels, with a total staff of almost 4,600 employees.

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.

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