

Contact:

Weinhold Legal, v.o.s.
Charles Square Center
Karlovo náměstí 10
120 00 Praha 2
Mail: nora.patzeltova@weinholdlegal.com

Press Release

WEINHOLD LEGAL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES PARTICIPATION IN STUDY FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

At the end of last year, the European Commission approved the final version of the Study on the operation and impact of the Statute for a European Company (“Societas Europaea” - SE). The Study provides an overview of the implementation of the Statute into national legislation in nearly all EU/EEA Member States, a summary and analytical report on the current status of creation, implementation and functionality of SEs as well as guidelines and suggestions concerning the need to amend the Statute for a European Company.

The team elaborating the Study was led by French law firm Ernst & Young, Société d'Avocats in conjunction with German Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft and included reputable international law firms as well as three reputable academic corporate law specialists from Universities in France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Weinhold Legal, one of the leading law firms on the Czech and Slovak legal markets, participated by covering the national legislation and the status of SE establishment in the Czech and Slovak Republics and by filling the role of co-ordinator on the Steering Committee with regard to the Central and Eastern European region.

„I'm convinced our Study will be a valuable tool for the European Commission in re-focusing its corporate law strategy“, commented Thilo Hoffmann, partner of Weinhold Legal and Project Steering Committee member. Other members of the Weinhold Legal team involved in the Study include Martin Lukas for the Czech Republic and Tomas Cermak for Slovakia.

The European Commission will decide on the publication of the Study and will most likely make it available on its official website. Due to the need for approval by the newly appointed EU Commissioner for Internal Markets, the publication is scheduled to come out in March 2010 at the earliest, whereupon the authors of the Study will be permitted to publicly refer to the findings. However, it will have to be stated that the opinions expressed in the Study are the opinions of the authors and do not represent the European Commission's official position. In May 2010, a conference will be organised by the European Commission to present the conclusions of the Study.

The project, the budget of which amounted to 250 TEUR, was based on a request for a tender by the European Commission in which the project team was successful due in part to its

technical and academic background as well as its coverage of jurisdictions in the EU and the EEA (European Economic Area).

About Weinhold Legal

Ever since the establishment of the Prague office in 1996 and the subsequent founding of the Bratislava branch office in 1998, the legal practice of Weinhold Legal has maintained a strong presence in the Czech and Slovak markets. The law firm currently boasts a team of nearly fifty highly-qualified experts.

Weinhold Legal was short-listed for the "**Central European Law Firm of the Year 2009**" organised by the prestigious legal publication, **The Lawyer**, and was also short-listed in the categories of Restructuring and Insolvency, Real Estate/Development and Labour Law for the competition "**The Law Firm of the Year 2009**" organised by the publisher, epravo.cz, under the auspices of the Czech Bar Association.

Managing Partner Daniel Weinhold was recommended as a leader in the field of Private Funds Law in the 2010 edition of **The International Who's Who of Private Funds Lawyers** for the Czech Republic as well as in the 2010 edition of **The International Who's Who of Merger & Acquisition Lawyers** in the field of Mergers & Acquisitions.

Weinhold Legal has been ranked in the annual publication, **Book of Lists**, as one of the largest international law firms in the market today and has achieved an impressive ranking in several of the leading law firm directories including Legal 500, Chambers and Partners, PLC Which lawyer?, IFLR, etc.