

PRESS RELEASE

Lisbon, December 5th, 2008

Largest Law Firm in Madeira Joins Abreu Advogados

Effective as of January 1, 2009, the entire practice of **SMS Law Firm**, the largest law firm in Madeira, joins **Abreu Advogados**. With this move **Abreu Advogados** consolidates its position as a major independent and innovative law firm.

As a result of this move, **Abreu Advogados** increases its team to 155 lawyers, including 31 partners, in a total of 210 professionals, with offices in Lisbon, Porto, Madeira and Angola (in Association), whilst boosting its structure, in terms of human, technical and organizational quality.

Abreu Advogados, recognizing client's growing interest in the Madeira Free Trade Zone, believes this venture will help in meeting clients' demands, in as much as **SMS Law Firm** - a top player in Madeira Legal Market - will provide **Abreu Advogados** with a more direct and effective access to the local market. The synergies that result from this move best reflect how both Law Firms share common values, policies and performances.

A brief retrospective to **Abreu Advogados'** recent history:

- End of 2007: Abreu Advogados became the 5th largest Law Firm in Portugal having incorporated the full practices of Chastre (former Mullerat), Pacsa and Lusojurist in what was considered to be one of the largest moves in the Portuguese legal market in the last five years.
- Also in 2007: further to its policy of growth and expansion, Abreu Advogados closed an association with one of the largest law firms in Angola, FBSL – Faria Bastos, Sebastião e Lopes.
- Beginning of 2008: Won, for the second consecutive year, Exame/Heidrick & Struggles award for the Best Portuguese Law Firm to work for in Portugal. In 2008, the

Firm was additionally awarded the prize for the Best Portuguese Company to work for, replacing 2007 winner Millenium BCP.

- January 2008: Secured the cooperation of Paulo Teixeira Pinto, former CEO of Millenium BCP, the largest private banking Group in Portugal, as an of-counsel for the areas of strategy, organization and knowledge management.
- May 2008: Abreu Advogados was distinguished in the Quality Certification Sector by the Publication entitled "The Movement of Quality in Portugal – How Quality Management contributes to Organizations' Global Management" by Rui Fazenda Branco, including a report on a case-study of Abreu Advogados as the first and only Portuguese Law Firm certified by the ISO 9001:2000 Norm.
- End of September 2008: Miguel Mendes Pereira joins Abreu Advogados as a Partner, reinforcing the firm's Competition Group.
Miguel's experience include: *Lead Legal Adviser, Portuguese Competition Authority (2006-2008); Legal Secretary (référéndaire) in the Chambers of Judge Martins Ribeiro, Court of First Instance of the European Communities, Luxembourg (2004-2006); Administrator at the Media Unit of DG Competition of the European Commission, Brussels (2000-2004); Head of Legal Affairs, Lusomundo and Warner Lusomundo Group, Lisbon (1997-2000).*
- Early November 2008: Abreu Advogados' Oporto Office has a new Partner – Paulo Tarso, and his team, join the firm's Corporate and Commercial Practice Area.
Paulo Tarso, *an excellent technical lawyer, is an Assistant Lecturer of Corporate Law at Oporto University's Law Faculty since 1998; recently lectured "Introduction to the Law" at the East Timor University, Dili (2006) having previously lectured several post graduate courses at the Faculty of Law of the Univesity of Oporto (2002-2005).*

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