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Quack Rechtsanwälte

Berlin, 12 November 2001

Press Release

Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering and the Berlin Firm, Quack Rechtsanwälte, Merge

Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering (WCP), the international law firm, and the renowned Berlin firm of Quack Rechtsanwälte will merge as of 1 January 2002.

Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering – Quack will operate with more than 40 lawyers out of Berlin and thus create one of the largest offices of any international law firm in Germany's capital

WCP's Chairman, William J. Perlstein, speaking about the merger from Washington, said that "we were the first American law firm to open an office in Berlin in 1993. Since then, the German market has been playing an increasingly important role in our international strategy."

WCP is an international law firm that was founded in Washington DC in 1962. About 450 lawyers qualified in 20 different jurisdictions work for WCP in Washington, New York, Baltimore, Northern Virginia, London, Brussels and Berlin. WCP advises international corporations, organizations and governments worldwide in all areas of private and public commercial law.

In Germany and Europe, WCP has in the past 10 years carved a reputation for itself by successfully acting in significant cases involving competition law and merger control, international arbitration, regulatory law (aviation, telecommunications and energy) as well as significant M&A transactions. Its particular strength lies in advising clients in complicated cases that involve the interface between business, law and politics. WCP is one of the leading law firms in the world in the area of public policy. For example, a team of German and American lawyers from WCP recently represented a coalition of leading German companies in negotiations leading to the resolution of asserted World War II claims through the establishment of a German Foundation and the achievement of legal peace for German companies in the U.S.

The origins of the Berlin law firm, Quack, go back to 1946. Under Karlheinz Quack, the firm grew to be one of the leading commercial law firms in Berlin, with a strong client following

both from within the local Berlin economy and German industry nationwide. In 1990 the Quack firm was one of the founding members of the Gaedertz network of law firms, one of the largest pan-national law firms in Germany, which decided to de-merge at the beginning of this year. Quack is widely known for its corporate and competition law practice; in addition, it has a strong focus on intellectual property law.

Karlheinz Quack: “I have always been immodest in one respect in my professional life: my insistence that legal work always be produced to the highest quality. At WCP we shall be able to continue working to these high standards in the future.”

Roger M. Witten, a member of WCP’s management committee with responsibility for its German business said: “This merger is the logical consequence of our firm’s continued expansion in the German market. In addition to its highly qualified lawyers, the Quack law firm brings with it its significant German client base that has been developed over many years as well as an outstanding reputation in Germany’s capital, Berlin”.

“With our colleagues from Quack we have found the ideal partners for the rapid further growth of our firm in Germany”, WCP Berlin partners, Roland Steinmeyer and the former Federal Transport Minister, Matthias Wissmann, commented. “Quack is one of the most respected law firms in Germany, whose reputation extends well beyond the boundaries of Berlin.”

WCP and Quack complement one another perfectly in the area of competition law and merger control. By joining forces, WCP significantly strengthens its existing corporate, M&A and regulatory practices, while WCP also gains expertise in a number of important new areas. Apart from highly reputed experts in employment law, Quack will also be contributing its considerable expertise in the area of intellectual property law and taxation.

Wolfgang Rosener commented: “We took our time so as to get to know each other well. Both firms have traditionally been active in the areas of corporate law and competition law. WCP has taken the conscious decision to develop its practice in Germany from a strong base in Berlin. We are the perfect partners for one another in this strategy.”

The merged firm will start to operate from joint premises in the International Trade Center (IHZ) in Friedrichstraße in January 2002.

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