

LEGAL

NEW SYSTEM OF COMPENSATION FOR TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

In order to promote competitiveness and employment, the Portuguese Government approved a Law proposal amending the Labour Code, introducing significant changes in relation to the compensation due to workers upon termination of employment contracts.

Besides the reduction from 30 to 20 days of retribution and seniority payment for each year of seniority, it is intended to standardize the manner of determining the compensation amounts and the elimination of the minimum compensation currently set at three months of retribution.

Another innovation introduced by the law relates to the creation of a Compensation Fund for the termination of the employment contract, to ensure partial payment of compensations to the worker and pond up by companies in proportion to their number of redundancies.

NEW LAW WILL FACILITATE TAKEOVERS OF LISTED COMPANIES

After the end of the Golden State's Shares, there is now a new Decree-Law which will end with the restrictions on the exercise of voting rights, the transfer of shares and with the existence of special rights.

The draft version of the new Decree was under public consultation until September 8 and is meant to end up with the shields that are deterrents to the launch of company takeovers, and even when launched, may deprive shareholders of the last word about its success or failure.

The Government will increase the competitiveness of the Portuguese market for corporate control by moving forward with this new Law which will facilitate takeovers and requires corporations to submit the statutes every five years for shareholders approval.

BUSINESS

PESTANA GROUP EXPANDS IN EUROPE

After an investment of 25 million Euros, the *Pestana Berlin Tiergarten* officially opened on August 27.

The four-star hotel, located in the city centre, which opened in soft-opening last May, is the second of the Portuguese group in an European capital, after *Pestana Chelsea Bridge Hotel & Spa*, opened in London in 2010.

With a presence in 10 countries and 44 hotel units, the Portuguese group with more than 7,000 workers seeks expansion in the tourism business.

The group has announced new investments for the next two years in Miami, Montevideo and Casablanca.

SONAE INVESTS IN GERMANY AND ANGOLA

Sonae Sieera, a company belonging to SONAE Group, a Portuguese group specialized in shopping centres, is now going to manage and market one more shopping centre in Germany, The Bikini Berlin. Besides the managing of the shopping centre, Sonae Sieera also manages another shopping centre and is the co-owner of three more.

In Angola, SONAE has already formalized a partnership with CONDIS, the Angolan Company of Isabel dos Santos, for the creation of a Continente supermarket chain in the country.

These two actions of SONAE Group reinforce the company's internationalization strategy.

REGISTRATION RELEASE OF DOMAIN NAME “.XXX”

IMC Registry, a management company of website domains, has now permission for domain name registration with termination the “.xxx” for adult content websites.

In a first phase (until 28th of October, 2011) the domain registrations are reserved exclusively for owners of adult content or trademark holders who wish to reserve the brand name so such name cannot be used for a site for adults.

After this first phase, the domain names, including those that include the name of brands will be free and a third person can register a website ending in “.xxx” with a domain name similar to a trademark.

Companies that want to protect their trademarks should book the domains until October 28, avoiding that their brand will be associated with an adult content site.