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FC GUERREIRO CHANGES TO NEW PREMISES

Franco Caiado Guerreiro & Associados, Sociedade de Advogados, RL has the pleasure to inform its clients and friends that, during the month of April, its headquarters will be changed to new and better premises located in the well known Castilho Building in Lisbon. The new address and contacts are: Rua Castilho, 39, 15º, 1250-068 Lisbon, Portugal; Tel. +351 21 371 70 00; Fax +351 21 371 70 01. The change to these new premises represents an important step in our strategy to support our clients, expand our activity and offer our team excellent working conditions.

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NEW RULES ON COURT COSTS

The Government has recently approved a new set of rules on Court costs thereby changing some basic features of the outgoing rules on this matter. One of the most significant changes consists in the losing party in a lawsuit participating in part of the expenses endured by the winning party, particularly lawyer's fees, up to the limit of the initial Court fees due. Another point is, "mass litigants", i.e. those entities that file more than 200 lawsuits per year, will now have to pay added Court costs (which can be 2 times the usual Court costs). The objective of this measure is to penalise those who file several (unnecessary) lawsuits and for this reason overload the courts.

For further information on this issue please contact [Sandra Ferreira Dias](#).

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SPECIAL TAXATION REGIME FOR GROUPS OF COMPANIES

The 2007 State Budget has brought interesting changes to the Special Taxation Regime for Groups of Companies. Namely, it has stated that the options, changes, cancellations or resignations made in the scope of this regime must be made by electronic means. However, the conditions to implement this procedure (to be executed by each company's accountant through the internet web site <http://www.e-financas.gov.pt/>) only recently were met. This is another step towards the simplification of procedures in the business life that has, indeed, an obvious impact in the taxation of companies that are included in a group organization. Also interesting is the possibility of visualising all the information lodged in the system by visiting the aforementioned internet web site and clicking on the option "Informação de Cadastro".

For further information on this issue please contact [Ana Castro Gonçalves](#).

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SIMPLIFICATION OF URBANISTIC OPERATIONS

Law 60/2007 enacted on September 4th has simplified the rules that govern urban edifications, namely by waiving the requirement of an administrative license for works of reconstruction of building facades as well as for the construction of pools associated to main buildings. Nevertheless, it was only recently that a set of regulations was published, which are essential to bringing this new law into effect. The regulations defined, amongst other aspects, which data that must be delivered upon filing of licensing requests, and the rules that govern the computer system that must be made available by local municipalities in connection to this matter, etc.).

For further information on this issue please contact [Joana Gomes dos Santos](#).

GALP ENERGIA PLANS €5.3 BILLION INVESTMENT

According to a statement of Galp Energia the company will make an overall investment of €3.3 billion within the time period between 2008 and 2012 in projects in Portugal. This investment is expected to create around 7,300 direct and indirect jobs which may produce a 0.4% growth in Portugal's GDP. Galp's investments will focus mainly in modernizing two of its refineries and in closing the acquisition of Agip's Iberian network. Wind energy projects are also part of the outlay. Galp Energia also expects to spend around €2 billion developing its oil and gas interests in Angola, Brazil and Spain.

REN (PORTUGUESE ENERGY NETWORK) INVESTS €1.4 BILLION IN THE ENERGY NETWORK

REN - Portuguese Energy Network, owner of the concession of public service for the exploration of the Portuguese network of electricity transmission, will invest 240 million euros each year between 2009 and 2014, totalling 1.434 million euros, in the modernization of said electricity transmission network. To ensure future demand of electricity in Portugal by using renewable sources of energy and hydric energy (bearing in mind the construction of 10 new dams), as well as to connect the Portuguese network to the Spanish network, are some of the objectives of the said investment plan. Priority will also be given to the supply of electricity to the high speed railway network between Lisbon and Madrid, Porto and Vigo and finally Lisbon and Porto.

For further information on this issue please contact [Ricardo Costa Macedo](#).

AIR FRANCE-KLM BUYS ALITALIA FOR 747 MILLION EUROS

After several negotiations, the Board of Directors of Alitalia has recently accepted the takeover that Air France-KLM had launched. Air France-KLM, currently the largest airline company in Europe proposes to acquire the Italian airline company for a total of 747 million. In case the proposed acquisition made by Air France-KLM takes place, it may avoid the insolvency of Alitalia, which has been making a loss for over a decade. The offer of Air France-KLM depends on the agreement of Alitalia's unions which may be difficult to achieve since Air France KLM foresees the redundancy of approximately 1600 Alitalia's employees. The offer of Air-France-KLM shall also depend on the non-opposition of the relevant competition authorities.

For further information on this issue please contact [Ricardo Rodrigues Lopes](#)

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