

Portugal

With Portugal's new competition law and its EU-mandated commitment to effective competition, it's a busy time for many of the country's competition lawyers. For a small country the range of firms is impressive, with domestic, Spanish and international firms all represented in Lisbon and Porto.

Elite

Marques Mendes & Associados continues to be one of Portugal's leading competition practices. Led by renowned competition veteran and *Who's Who Legal* entrant Mário Marques Mendes, the firm has had a heavy transactional workload. It is still advising ETE on merger control issues regarding the public bid for provision of services at the Port of Lisbon, a case that has involved a competitor filing claims with the competition authority and courts. Transport company Barreiros's takeover of Lisbon transport provider Metro Sul do Tejo, which Marques Mendes advised on, was cleared this year without conditions.

International clients are also drawn to the firm: it is helping Canadian aviation training company CAE Global Academy restructure its Portuguese operation, and it successfully resolved a case before the Portuguese competition authority regarding restrictive practices by a multinational pharmaceutical company.

Most of Marques's European work is done on behalf of the commission, assisting it in two new cases this year, an appeal by Portugal Telecom and another Portuguese company contesting a fine in the pre-stressing steel cartel. In addition, it is helping the commission in three appeals by Portuguese companies in the pre-stressing steel cartel, and two companies in the animal feed cartel.

With a downturn in merger work, leading antitrust firm **Morais Leitão Galvão Teles Soares da Silva & Associados** (MLGTS) has turned its attention to other competition matters, according to practice head and *Who's Who Legal* entrant Carlos Botelho Moniz. With fellow *Who's Who Legal* nominee Joaquim Vieira Peres in the firm's Porto office and several associates, the firm has successfully compensated for the lack of deals with other high-profile work.

State aid has been particularly high on the agenda. The firm is advising two of the country's leading banks: the European Commission recently approved restructuring plans for state-owned bank Caixa Geral de Depósitos and Millennium BCP, the largest private bank in Portugal, over the summer.

Mergers have not totally dried up though. The firm represented Sonaecom and Isabela dos Santos in the deal to join OPTIMUS, a mobile network operator and subsidiary of Sonaecom, with ZON, a cable network operator. The tie-up was cleared, subject to conditions, in August. MLGTS also worked on the privatisation of Pavilhão Atlântico, Portugal's largest indoor arena, representing Arena Atlântida, the company which bought it from the state.

The seven-lawyer practice at **Pereira Sáragga Leal Oliveira Martins Júdice & Associados** (PLMJ) is recognised by peers as one of the country's leading practices. The team is led by *Who's Who Legal* nominee Ricardo Oliveira, who is assisted by five senior associates and one associate. The firm recently won an important case before the European General Court, representing companies in the fruit and vegetable sector seeking annulment of various regulations. The team is also advising one of the companies involved in a major banking investigation.

The practice continues to provide antitrust counsel to catering company Eurest in the catering cartel, which has been the largest case tried before the newly established specialised Competition Court. Other clients represented by PLMJ at that court include Farminveste, Lactogal and Formato.

In terms of mergers, the firm has been advising Zon Multimedia in the notification to the PCA of a joint venture with Portugal Telecom and Controlinveste. The practice continues to advise various international companies, including Siemens, Nestlé, Unilever, Essilor and Coca-Cola.

Highly recommended

A well-established player in the Portuguese bar, Spanish firm **Garrigues** continues to run an effective competition practice. Sole partner and *Who's Who Legal* nominee João Paulo Teixeira de Matos leads the team.

The firm was counsel to Ferrovial Aeropuertos in its unsuccessful bid to takeover ANA Aeroportos de Portugal, the former state-owned airport controller. Though Ferrovial was not chosen, the bid was a large and complex undertaking. Garrigues advised several pharmacies and medicine distributors in relation to an investigation by the National Authority of Medicines and Health Products into the parallel trade of medicines.

It's been a busy time for transaction specialists **Linklaters**. Head of practice and *Who's Who Legal* nominee Carlos Pinto Correia says the four-person team "doesn't do everything", but what it covers is of high quality. State aid is an important area. It is advising banks BPI and Banif in negotiations with the Portuguese government and the European Commission. It is also acting for Brazilian aircraft producer Embraer and paper manufacturer Portucel in state aid matters.

Linklaters is representing BP in several behavioural matters and in its joint venture with rivals Repsol and Petrogal to expand production in Portugal. It is also acting for online games company Bwin, and SIBS, the leading payments

FIRM	HEAD(S) OF COMPETITION	SIZE	CLIENTS
Elite			
Marques Mendes & Associados	Mario Marques Mendes	2 partners 1 senior associate 2 associates	European Commission, RTP, Barraqueiro, Ally Financial/GMAC, CAE Global Academy, SAS Institute, Nike, ETE
Morais Leitão Galvão Teles Soares da Silva & Associados (MLGTS)	Carlos Botelho Moniz	2 partners 5 senior associates	EDP, Sonae, Optimus, Impresa, REN, TAP, Millennium BCP Bank, Abbott, Amgen, SCC (Heineken Group), AdP-Águas de Portugal, Espírito Santo Turismo
Pereira Sáragga Leal Oliveira Martins Júdice & Associados (PLMJ)	Ricardo Oliveira	1 partner 5 senior associates 1 associate	Agrucon, Eurest, Zon Multimedia, Grupo ANF, Siemens, Nestlé, Unilever, Coca-Cola, Refrige, Cimpor
Vieira de Almeida	Nuno Ruiz	1 partner 1 counsel 6 associates	José de Mello, Espírito Santo, Semapa, Uniself, Apifarma, Lilly, Novartis, Portugal Telecom, ACAPO, Omega Pharma
Highly recommended			
Cuatrecasas Gonçalves Pereira	Frederico Pereira Coutinho	2 partners 1 of counsel 4 associates	BMW, Daimler, Kia, Refrige, Galp, Bosh, Cabovisão, Banco Privado Português, OTOC
Garrigues	João Paulo Teixeira de Matos	1 partner 5 associates	IBM, Kraft Foods Portugal, Honda, Acer, Fertiberia, Magnum Industrial Partners, Volvo Car Portugal, Delta Cafés, BBVA Bank
Linklaters	Carlos Pinto Correia	1 partner 3 associates	Nestlé, BP, Repsol, Petrogal, BPI, Embraer, Portucel, Abertis, Bwin, SBIS
SRS Legal	Gonçalo Anástacio	1 partner 1 counsel 4 associates	Centromarca, Jiangsu Jinsheng Industry, Mitsubishi Electric, Mota-Engil, Intel, Galp, GlaxoSmithKlein, Repsol, Sumol+Compal, Air Liquid
Uría Menéndez – Proença de Carvalho	Joaquim Caimoto Duarte	1 partner 1 senior associate	Apifarma, Camargo Corrêa, Multiópticas, Otis, Socitrel, Smurfit Kappa, SC Johnson, Coty Astor, Damm, Uniarme

processor in the country. In merger control, it has also been an active year: the firm advised international infrastructure fund Arcus on its joint bid for Brisa, the biggest operator of road tolls in Portugal.

Who's Who Legal nominee Gonçalo Anastácio leads the impressive competition team at **SRS Legal**. The firm is representing Galp before the European General Court in an appeal regarding the long-standing "asphalt table cartel", which involves all bitumen operators in Spain. The hearing took place in January 2013.

SRS is advising Chinese company Jiangsu Jinsheng Industry on its acquisition of parts of the Swiss high-tech material business Oerlikon and is also representing engineering company Mota-Engil in the privatisation of former state airport operator ANA Aerportos de Portugal.

Head of practice and *Who's Who Legal* nominee Joaquim Caimoto Duarte says the Lisbon competition team at **Uría Menéndez – Proença de Carvalho** is well integrated with its counterparts in Madrid and Brussels. Duarte has been advising Apifarma, Portugal's pharmaceutical industry association, in a long complaint filed with DG Comp regarding the country's pharmaceutical sector. The case was referred by the commission to the PCA which conducted an in-depth investigation into the Portuguese pharmaceutical market.

Merger work continues amid the raft of behavioural work. The firm advised Brazilian cement company Carmargo Correa Group in their purchase of Portuguese cement company Cimpor, which was completed in October 2012. UM-PC's competition practice coordinated the merger in all jurisdictions, including Spain, Portugal, South Africa, Turkey and Egypt.