

firm in 1990 and has been a partner since 1998. Enrique Carrera was promoted to counsel in 2018, after serving with the firm for 12 years. Luis Loras, an expert on e-discovery in antitrust cases, joined as an associate recently from Cuatrecasas. Four additional associates complete the team.

It is advising Bankia on a CNMC investigation of interest rate derivatives. Another major new client is parking payments company EasyPark, which Freshfields is advising on antitrust and public procurement issues in Spain and operations throughout the EU, as well as representing before various Spanish courts. The firm is advising Ferrovial on acquisition of a potential hub airport.

Iza and his team are advising Hochtief on merger control aspects of its takeover bid for toll road and satellite company Abertis and a subsequent joint control agreement resulting from the €18.6 billion deal. They are advising new client Cinven on merger control for its acquisition of joint control of Planasa, which develops new plant varieties. Freshfields also advises Allfund Bank on antitrust aspects of its acquisition of Credit Suisse InvestLab.

Rivals are quick to praise the GARRIGUES competition practice, which is in the middle of major EU competition cases. Susana Cabrera, who recently advised Telefónica on its €1.28 billion sale of an equipment subsidiary, took the helm from Marcos Araujo, who retired. Oriol Armengol joined from Pérez-Llorca as a partner in Madrid. Partners José Luis Buendía, Alfonso Lamadrid and Ángel Givaja in Brussels also represent Spanish clients, and two counsel and seven associates complete the team.

It is one of the three firms representing Google in its appeal against the €4.34 billion fine and major behavioural remedies imposed by the European Commission in the *Android* case. Garrigues is advising Meliá in the European Commission's investigation into the Spanish hotel group's agreements with European tour operators. It acted for Calidad Pascual and Puleva Food in their successful challenge to the CNMC's *Dairy* cartel decision, in which the enforcer imposed €88 million in fines. The two companies' fines were annulled after an appellate court found that the authority had violated their defence rights.

Garrigues has a strong merger practice, including representation of Red Eléctrica de España in merger control for its €949 million acquisition of satellite operator Hispasat. The firm secured a Phase I clearance for the deal. It advised Naviera Armas in its acquisition of Spanish shipping company Trasmediterránea, which was also cleared in Phase I. In another significant deal, the firm helped Air Nostrum Líneas Aéreas del Mediterráneo and CityJet notify their merger to the European Commission.

MARTÍNEZ LAGE, ALLENDESALAZAR & BROKELMANN partners Rafael Allendesalazar and Helmut Brokelmann are widely considered two of the top competition practitioners in the Spanish market. They lead a team of partners that includes Santiago Martínez Lage, Paloma Martínez-Lage and Mariarosaria Ganino, backed by one counsel and

three associates. Camino Ferrero joined that group of associates this year, while Mar Paz-Ares left.

The firm is representing Altice in its bid to annul the €125 million fine that the European Commission imposed on the telecommunications company for gun jumping in its acquisition of Portugal Telecom. The EU enforcer said Altice exercised "decisive influence" over Portugal Telecom before the commission conditionally cleared the deal. The firm is defending Michelin subsidiary Euromaster against an unfair competition and antitrust claim brought by a franchisee, and acting for Santillana in the CNMC's *Textbooks* investigation. It continues to advise Printeos after persuading the General Court to annul a fine imposed on the company for participation in the *Envelopes* cartel. After arguing successfully that the European Commission should have paid Printeos interest when returning an annulled fine, the firm is now appealing against the re-imposition of the annulled fine.

The firm is representing Siemens before the Spanish enforcer in an ongoing investigation into railway signalling, and is providing broad competition advice to Uber as well as representing the company in unfair competition cases brought before administrative and commercial courts. Allendesalazar, Brokelmann and their team are also advising on major mergers in Spain, such as an online advertising joint venture by publishers Prisa Noticias, Vocento and Grupo Godó that received Phase I clearance in May 2019.

URÍA MENÉNDEZ has Spain's largest competition practice by overall headcount: five partners, four counsel and 17 associates working on competition matters. Jaime Folguera and Antonio Guerra lead the team, joined by fellow partners Edurne Navarro, Alfonso Gutiérrez and Patricia Vidal. They have an impressive list of local and international clients. The CNMC's cartel investigations – including *Motorway Maintenance*, *Construction*, *Waste Management* and *Consultancy Services* – keep the practice busy.

It is defending DAF against damages claims in Spain following on from the *Trucks* case, which at €3 billion in total fines was the largest cartel penalty the European Commission has imposed. This matter is especially challenging because Spain is a "one shot jurisdiction", meaning that defendants must make all their arguments within 20 days of being served with the claim. The firm assisted Siemens in the CNMC's *Rail Electrification* investigation. The company applied for leniency, and the authority reduced the fine by 45%. The leniency application was especially significant because it means the company can remain eligible for public contracts.

In deals, Uría Menéndez advised Telepizza on merger control for its alliance with Pizza Hut, which would significantly expand the company's reach and which involved a progressive integration of the two businesses. The European Commission cleared the deal in Phase I. The firm also advised Boston Scientific on notification to the CNMC of its acquisition of pharmaceuticals and medical device company BTG, which required coordinating with US antitrust authorities. The CNMC cleared the deal, conditional on a package of remedies that the US Federal Trade Commission approved in August.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

CMS ALBIÑANA & SUÁREZ DE LEZO competition practice head Carlos Vérguez has extensive experience advising multinational companies. He is assisted by senior associate Aida Oviedo, who is essential to the firm's services designing audit and compliance programmes for clients such as the Spanish branch of RCI Banque and HA Ilarduya,

a subsidiary of German chemicals company Hüttenes Albertus. Associate Ana Jiménez-Clavería completes the CMS competition team.

It has counselled brewery Hijos de Rivera on competition law. The firm also advises on important deals. It acted for textile machinery and auto parts maker Rieter on notification to the CNMC of joint control of Catalan company Electro-jet, which the enforcer cleared in Phase I of