

PONTES: the CEE lawyers

news quarterly

deals, cases, law and market developments January – March 2026

Recent transactions*

AT **BG** **CZ** **PL** **JŠK** advised the founder of ACS, an established electrotechnical company, on the sale of a 100% stake to 2JCP Group, a portfolio company of Jet Investment. For the cross-border aspects of the transaction, the team collaborated with colleagues from Gugushev & Partners in Bulgaria, BTA SOLIVAN in Poland, and Graf Patsch Freisinger (formerly Graf Patsch Taucher) in Austria.

SK Majerník & Miháliková have closed a transaction in the waste management sector on behalf of our client. The transaction involved the acquisition of more than a 94% ownership interest in a company active in the waste management industry.

CZ **JŠK** advised the private equity fund GPEF V of the GENESIS CAPITAL group in connection with the acquisition of a majority stake in Fyzioterapie s úsměvem, one of the largest networks of rehabilitation centres in the Czech Republic. The transaction is being carried out in partnership with the company's existing management team, which will remain actively involved in its management, and has already been approved by the Czech Competition Authority.

BG **Gugushev & Partners Law Office** advised Hisar Milenium, a producer of mineral water, on securing EU recognition of a designation of origin for its product. The case included representation in proceedings before the Administrative Court challenging an order of the Minister of Agriculture, as well as actions before the Ministry and the European Commission. The team also assessed the client's intellectual property portfolio and developed a comprehensive IP protection strategy.

CZ **JŠK** advised the founder of the Czech technology company Imper CZ s.r.o., which develops the sales-tech platform Saleskit, in the sale of a 100% stake to the European technology group Team.blue. The integration will, for the first time, give Czech companies access to an extensive pan-European database of companies and contacts that has so far been available mainly to large Western European players. Authority.

SK Majerník & Miháliková provided a client with comprehensive legal advice on structuring a transaction, advising on the acquisition and establishment of a pledge over the ownership interest, and the settlement of relationships with the seller. In addition, we have advised the client on the creation of a holding structure through another entity (a Slovak joint-stock company), including the structuring and arrangement of relationships with minority shareholders at the holding level.

* only selected transactions are presented; a full list of our publishable transactional experience is available upon request.

Members of PONTES are:

AT **OOO** graf patsch freisinger

BG **Gugushev & Partners**
L A W O F F I C E

SK MAJERNÍK (M) MIHÁLIKOVÁ
ADVOKÁTSKA KANCELÁRIA | LAW FIRM

PL SOLIVAN.

RO **J** JINGA ASOCIATII

HU Pontes
Budapest
ügyvédi iroda

CZ **JŠK**
advokátní kancelář

Recent cases and notable legal developments

SK A significant amendment to the Criminal Code has brought about substantial changes to criminal law. Among other provisions, this amendment repealed the Act on the Office for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Whistleblowers. In February 2026, the Constitutional Court accepted several proposals to examine the constitutionality of several provisions of the amendment. Legal entities can now also be held liable for deepfake pornography offenses. The changes take effect in January and July 2026.

RO GEO 17 / 2026 adopted by the Romanian government on March 12 2026 brings changes to the legal framework for foreign direct investment (FDI) screening in Romania, aiming to reduce administrative burdens and improve the reviewing process. Notable amendments are raising the notification threshold from EUR 2m to EUR 5m, clarifying the treatment of internal restructurings, extending screening to certain asset acquisitions in sensitive sectors, including critical technologies, infrastructure, pharma, defense and agri food, while decreasing examination tax and timelines.

CZ JŠK advised IT group EXPANDIA Digital on the acquisition of a majority stake in the Czech consulting and technology company Lundegaard a.s. Through this partnership, Lundegaard brings to the group extensive expertise in building modern digital channels, a strong consulting background, and more than twenty years of experience in designing digital solutions with clear business impact.

CZ In 2026, significant changes will affect corporate criminal liability. An amendment to the Act on Criminal Liability of Legal Entities strengthens the role of compliance programs, which courts will now consider when determining penalties. Monetary penalties will become universal and may reflect a company's net turnover. A new diversion mechanism allows for the conditional suspension of prosecution without requiring an admission of guilt. Legal entities can now also be held liable for deepfake pornography offenses. The changes take effect in January and July 2026.

SK The new Act on the Commercial Register comprehensively regulates the area of the commercial register. The primary goal of this legislation is to modernize and streamline the administration of data within the register.

PONTES NEWS

AT **BG** **CZ** PONTES continues its strong performance in the latest Legal 500 rankings, with a majority of offices recognized. All recognized offices are ranked in the Commercial, corporate and M&A category. Other notable placements include Dispute Resolution (Sofia, Prague), Real Estate (Sofia, Vienna), Banking and Finance and Restructuring and Insolvency (Prague), being rounded up by Energy and Intellectual Property (Sofia), underscoring the network's regional strength and sector expertise across Central and Eastern Europe.

HU Dr. Katalin Sirály, of-counsel of PONTES Budapest played a key role in the jury of the international masterplan competition for Budapest's Rákosszentmihály brownfield site, whose results have now been announced. The project may become one of the most significant real estate developments of the next 20 years. Katalin acted as legal advisor, and the winning consortium—led by Coldefy—was a French-Slovak-Hungarian-Dutch collaboration.

BG **RO** PONTES offices **Gugushev & Partners** and **Jinga & Asociații** participated in a webinar hosted by the Bulgarian-Romanian Chamber of Commerce, addressing key legal and accounting regulations in Bulgaria and Romania for 2026. The session explored corporate compliance, tax frameworks, reporting obligations, regulatory updates, and practical challenges for cross-border businesses, offering actionable guidance for investors navigating both jurisdictions. (to be added in the PONTES news section)