

Portuguese firm scoops authority official

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Rosalind Donald

A former member of Portugal's Competition Authority, Miguel Mendes Pereira, has joined Vieira de Almeida as of counsel in Lisbon, the firm announced today.



Miguel Mendes Pereira

He joins the firm from Abreu Advogados along with three associates - Sofia de Vasconcelos Casimiro, Lourenço Macedo and Cláudia Coutinho.

Pereira, 41, joined Abreu Advogados in 2008. Before moving to private practice, he was lead legal adviser to the board of Portugal's Competition Authority. He also spent five years working at the European Commission.

Between 1997 and 2000, he was head of legal affairs for media companies Lusomundo and Warner Lusomundo.

"When something breaks down it's always helpful to know how the machinery works, and my experience at the European and Portuguese competition authorities has given me insight into how enforcement works," says Pereira. "My experience at the EU is also helpful in dealing with the increasing numbers of multijurisdictional cases."

Nuno Ruiz, head of Vieira de Almeida's competition practice called the arrival of Pereira and his team a "very promising venture". He says: "Miguel has an excellent reputation in the field, in particular in media markets and IP. We look forward to broadening our work in promising fields such as private enforcement and state aid."

Pereira's recent work includes filing the multijurisdictional merger between Scandinavian Tobacco Group and Swedish Match with the Portuguese authority.

At the European Commission, he worked on the merger of media companies AOL and TimeWarner and the attempted merger between music companies EMI and Warner Music, as well as cases dealing with collective copyright management.

Abreu Advogados declined to comment.

Vieira de Almeida's competition practice now has eight lawyers.