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### ***Five New Partners for Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații***

***Bucharest, Romania - New appointments at law firm Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații have brought the total number of partners to 15***

Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații announced today that Ioana Hrisafi, Levana Zigmund, Raluca Vasilache (Tiparu), Cristina Metea and Oana Ureche have been promoted to partnership.

The appointments became effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2008.

**Ioana Hrisafi**, a former magistrate, specializes in domestic litigation, with an experience of over 12 years. **Levana Zigmund** and **Cristina Metea** specialize in international arbitration and were members of the legal team who successfully defended the Romanian State before ICSID (Washington, DC) in the first international arbitration case brought against Romania by a foreign investor, i.e. Noble Ventures, Inc. **Raluca Vasilache (Tiparu)** is a renowned expert in competition law, having been involved in numerous projects involving acquisitions, privatization and State aid issues. **Oana Ureche** specializes in real estate and acquisitions, and she is one of the main advisors of Carrefour in Romania.

*„We took this decision based on their outstanding legal skills, dedication to client work, overall commitment and contributions to firm’s development and rise ever since its founding date, back in 2005. Ioana, Levana, Raluca, Cristina and Oana are among our most valuable team players, to whom we are bound by many memories and professional satisfactions and who have been working with us since the very beginning of Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații”,* says Florentin Țuca, Managing Partner.

For 2008, Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații’s HR policy provides for various complementary programs and facilities – financial and otherwise, increase of specialized professional trainings, hiring of new lawyers and promotion of one or more partners from among the senior associates.

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To date, Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații has a team of 110 people, out of whom 75 lawyers (15 partners and 60 associates).

For more information, please also visit [www.tuca.ro](http://www.tuca.ro)

**Notes for editors:**

**Ioana Hrisafi** has been appointed litigation partner of Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații.

A former President Judge of a Bucharest district court, her experience extends to over 12 years, having been involved in a wide range of domestic and international arbitration files, commercial cases, including complex bankruptcy proceedings, competition law related litigations, labour disputes, contentious and administrative disputes, including tax disputes, as well as real estate litigation including claims on restitution of nationalized properties and expropriation.

**Levana Zigmund** has been appointed partner of Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații, having over 10 years of extensive expertise in the areas of public international arbitration/dispute resolution, corporate law, as well as mergers & acquisitions.

She has been involved in major international arbitration cases brought against Romania to the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes – ICSID and was part of the team that has competently and successfully defended the Romanian government against the claim of Noble Ventures Inc. for USD 447,000,000. She is currently advising the Romanian government in two other major international arbitration cases brought to ICSID by EDF Services and S&T Oil Equipment & Machinery.

**Raluca Vasilache (Tiparu)** has been appointed competition partner of Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații.

Praised for her work on merger control, antitrust and State aid cases, she has undertaken numerous procedures of reviewing mergers and acquisitions under antitrust/competition law, acting for multinational clients from various industries. For the last 8 years, she has also advised clients in relation to investigations with the Romanian Competition Council, dawn raids of the authority and State aid matters, as well as on litigation involving competition law issues.

Furthermore, she has dealt with an array of intellectual property law issues, including pre-litigation and litigation before intellectual property regulatory authorities.

**Cristina Metea** has been appointed partner of Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații, specializing in corporate, capital markets and international arbitration with more than 10 years of legal expertise.

Further to her advisory services on corporate law and commercial contracts, Cristina Metea has participated to the drafting, amending and adjusting legal and regulatory enactments in a variety of areas.

Furthermore, she was part of the team that has competently and successfully defended the Romanian government against the claim of Noble Ventures Inc. for USD 447,000,000. She is currently advising the Romanian government in two other major international arbitration cases brought to ICSID by EDF Services and S&T Oil Equipment & Machinery.

**Oana Ureche** has been appointed partner of Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații, focusing on real estate and mergers & acquisitions.

She has particular strength in corporate acquisition and transactions, related financing issues, negotiation and preparation of complex sale-purchase operations, having advised both sellers and buyers in complex acquisitions and real estate transactions. She is skilled in drafting of merger plans, due diligence reports and documents substantiating several transactions as well as in negotiating various types of transaction documents.

Furthermore, she has been involved in major retail, residential and office development projects, as well as in defining infrastructure projects and has acquired significant experience in matters involving structuring of complex transactions.

Having practiced law for almost 10 years, Oana Ureche has been involved in important mergers, acquisitions & privatization projects, in the electricity and banking sectors.

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