

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Luther to have dual leadership in the future**

**Cologne, 10 May 2010 – As of 1 July 2010, Luther Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft mbH’s new Managing Partners will be Dr. Hans-Georg Hahn and Dr. Markus Sengpiel. Within the scope of the periodical managing partner elections, the partners voted for them to become the next Managing Partners of the firm. The duo will take over leadership from Dr Stefan Kraus, who was one of the founders of the international law firm and who has managed it for the last 15 years. He had already informed the partners in advance of the election of his decision not to stand for another term of office. Kraus: “It’s the right time for the next generation of partners to take on the responsibility of managing Luther. Hans-Georg Hahn and Markus Sengpiel have helped to shape the firm for years in their different functions. I am convinced that they will be excellent leaders and will develop the firm further. Which gives me the freedom to concentrate fully on my work as a lawyer and my clients.”**

By electing Dr. Hans-Georg Hahn and Dr. Markus Sengpiel Luther will be managed jointly by two Managing Partners as of 1 July 2010. Hahn will concentrate primarily on the strategic development and positioning of the firm. Sengpiel will primarily be responsible for operations and finance. Hahn: "Dividing responsibility means that the Managing Partners can continue to work for their clients." Sengpiel: "Easy access to all sorts of information has brought new challenges to the legal market. The networking amongst our offices and also with our clients will continue to grow and with it the dependency on IT systems. We see

this development as a great chance for us as we have traditionally always been up to date in this area.”

Hahn: “We want to build on what has already been achieved and continue with everything that has proven successful. However, the constant changes in the market environment continue to necessitate the willingness to change and accommodate new situations. We will face huge challenges in the coming years. The commercial parameters will continue to be difficult and unstable for our clients and therefore for us. Our clients’ expectations and requirements are changing, in particular they are expressing the need for more in-depth consultation. In addition to this, the effects of demographic change mean a more competitive environment when recruiting lawyers. Therefore, Luther will also in the future find itself in a continuing process of “always having to reinvent itself” in certain respects. Both the management and the firm are prepared for this.”

Dr. Hans-Georg Hahn (49) is a lawyer and tax advisor. He has worked for Luther since 1994 and has been a partner since 2000. He already has thorough management experience as the location head of Luther’s Hannover office and has also for the last four years been one of the three members of Luther’s Management Core Team that up to now has supported the Managing Partner with his duties. Hahn has made a name for himself as an expert in the field of mergers and acquisitions and privatisation in the hospital industry.

Dr. Markus Sengpiel (45) has been with Luther since 1995 and was made partner in 2002. In 2003 he took over the management of Luther’s Cologne office and has since 2006 also been the head of the practice area IP/IT. Sengpiel is an expert in the field of IT and media law as well as in the protection of intellectual property.

In 1992, the doctor of law and business management graduate Dr. Stefan Kraus (52) founded the firm Freihalter Krüger & Partner together with a few other lawyers from the tax department of Arthur Andersen - he has managed the firm continuously as Managing Partner ever since. As a member of Andersen Legal the firm, which in 1998 changed its name to Andersen Freihalter and then after a merger with Luther &

Partner in Hamburg and Berlin in 2000 again changed its name to Andersen Luther, is one of the fastest growing firms in Germany. Following the collapse of the worldwide organisation of Andersen in 2002 and the merger of Andersen in Germany with Ernst & Young, Kraus guided the firm through the merger with Menold Aulinger, the former partner law firm of Ernst & Young in Germany. As the Sarbanes-Oxley Act meant that Luther was not able to advise Ernst & Young's audit clients, Kraus convinced his fellow partners to end the association with Ernst & Young. This decision necessitated a complete reorganisation of the administrative and support infrastructure of Luther. Irrespective of these challenges, Luther started to grow immediately after the separation from Ernst & Young. In 2007, the firm became a member of Taxand, the worldwide network of leading independent tax advice firms. Ultimately, the name Kraus is also associated with the internationalisation of Luther through the opening of foreign offices in Brussels, Istanbul, Shanghai and Luxembourg as well as the significant development of the offices in Budapest and Singapore.

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### **Brief Profile Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH**

Luther is one of the leading German commercial law firms providing comprehensive services in all the relevant fields of legal and tax consulting. The full-service law firm employs more than 320 lawyers and tax advisors and is represented at 12 German economic centres and at important investment locations and financial centres in Europe and Asia with international offices in Brussels, Budapest, Istanbul, Luxembourg, Shanghai and Singapore. Our clients include medium-sized enterprises and large corporations, as well as the public sector.

Luther works closely with other commercial law firms in all the prevailing jurisdictions worldwide. On the Continent, Luther is part of a group of independent leading law firms who have worked together for many years on joint cross-border projects. Luther is the German member of Taxand, a worldwide network of independent tax firms.

Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH is a law firm with a business approach: our innovative awareness aspires us to provide our clients with customised legal advice that addresses individual needs and delivers the greatest possible economic benefit. Our lawyers and tax advisors have a solid understanding of interdisciplinary matters and a wealth of experience in collaborating on complex tasks.

Further information is available at: [www.luther-lawfirm.com](http://www.luther-lawfirm.com)

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