

ROMANIA

MUSAT NUMBER TWO HEADS TO SPIN-OFF

Ion Dragne creates his own boutique with a 10-strong team

DEPUTY senior partner **Ion Dragne** quit his firm Musat & Asociatii to launch his own boutique, Dragne & Asociatii.

Dragne, who was head of the Romanian practice's litigation department, left with fellow partner **Delia Bosman**. It is believed the pair also persuaded a team of 10 lawyers to join them.

The departures leave Musat with 10 partners. **Gheorghe Musat** becomes the firm's sole senior partner with **Catalin Baiculescu** and **Mona Musat** in the roles of co-managing partners. ■



Mona Musat, Musat's co-managing partner

SPAIN

GÓMEZ-ACEBO'S TAX HEAD LEAVES

Pablo Alarcón launches Alarcón Espinosa Attorneys

IBERIAN firm Gómez-Acebo & Pombo lost tax specialist **Pablo Alarcón** who



Pablo Alarcón

spun off to form tax boutique, Alarcón Espinosa Attorneys. Alarcón had been head of Gómez-Acebo's tax practice until its 2009 merger with

tax boutique Padrol Munté, whereupon name partner **Heribert Padrol Munté** took his place.

"This is a strictly personal decision after ten years with the firm and almost 22 in the profession," Alarcón said. The new Alarcón Espinosa Attorneys will focus primarily on advising large estates. ■

SPAIN

CUATRECASAS ABSORBS ROMERO Y ROBLES

Andalusian boutique hands the Iberian practice a Malaga base

SPAIN's Cuatrecasas **Gonçalves Pereira** merged with Andalusian boutique

firm Romero y Robles enabling the Iberian giant to launch in Malaga. The merger followed a longstanding relationship between Cuatrecasas and public law expert **Jorge Robles**, a former Cuatrecasas lawyer. He will lead the team along with insolvency specialist **Francisco Romero**. ■

BULGARIA

EC PRESSURES BULGARIA TO OPEN UP

Authorities take step to amend restrictive rules

INTERNATIONAL law firms' two-year battle to uphold their right to practice in Bulgaria using their own brand name is nearly at an end as Bulgaria was forced by the European Commission (EC) to drop its protectionist stance. Last June the first reading of amendments to Bar Act took place, setting the stage for changes after a caution from the EC, which found the Act to be anticompetitive and against EU law.

Under the current provisions of the act, international lawyers are unable to practice in Bulgaria under the widely used name of their firm and are required to have a name which refers to members of the local practice. In addition, local law can only be practised by Bulgarian citizens.

For nearly two years international law firms argued that the existing Bar Act is uncompetitive