

# Legal Week

## Bird & Bird secures quadruple CEE launch

Author: Sofia Lind

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Bird & Bird has significantly boosted its presence in Central and Eastern Europe with the launch of four offices – opening simultaneously in Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

The office launches follow the May hire of ex-Linklaters partner Stephen Kines to head the firm's Central European (CE) practice. He will oversee the four new bases, supported by newly-hired local office heads.

Maciej Gawronski will head the Warsaw office, joining from Polish independent M.Furtek i Wspolnicy, where his practice focused on IT, IP and data protection.

Martin Maxa will lead the firm's operation in Bratislava, joining from Stanford University. He specialises in EU law, corporate law and governance.

Clifford Chance M&A and corporate specialist Tomas Novak joins as head of the Prague office, while the Budapest office will be led by former Linklaters partner Andrea Simandi, who has joined from her own local IT/IP firm.

Meanwhile, Bird & Bird has sealed an alliance with Polish IP-specialist firm Grynhoff Wozny Malinski. The firm has eight other practice areas and a total of around 90 lawyers.

Kines commented: "Opening four offices instantaneously is a huge challenge and we are focusing all our energies on making each of them a success. We are committed to genuine greenfield investments, using local lawyers to build the reputation of the offices from the ground up."

"The association deal with Grynhoff Wozny Malinski will be mutually beneficial to the clients of both firms as we share areas of specialism and sector expertise, and will help us take advantage of the major opportunities in Poland in areas such as IT infrastructure."

Kines joined Bird & Bird earlier this year from Prague-based technology, media and telecoms firm Kines, which he co-founded in 2004 when he left Linklaters with a six-lawyer team.