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PRESS RELEASE

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HAVEL & PARTNERS' financial results in 2019 were again record-breaking; the group's total turnover, including the debt collection agency Cash Collectors and tax advisory services, exceeded for the first time one billion Czech crowns

In 2019 HAVEL & PARTNERS, the largest Czech-Slovak law firm, recorded the best economic results in its history. The total turnover of HAVEL & PARTNERS increased by 10% year-on-year in 2019, the first quarter being the most successful, when the turnover growth reached 15.6%. Revenues from net legal services reached CZK 711.5 million, representing a year-on-year increase of more than 9% in HAVEL & PARTNERS' Czech offices and almost 20% in HAVEL & PARTNERS' Slovak office. In line with the increase in turnover, profitability also increased due to large synergies and economies of scale. According to preliminary results, the total turnover of HAVEL & PARTNERS in the Czech Republic and Slovakia amounts to CZK 870 million and the turnover of the whole group, including the debt collection agency Cash Collectors and tax advisory services, exceeded for the first time one billion Czech crowns.

"Our excellent business results and the double-digit growth in turnover reflect the top quality of our stable team, with senior positions having almost no fluctuation rate, comprehensive specialisation, and know-how built over the years, and also an individual approach to clients and building strategic partnerships with them. As a result, we have the most stable client base on the market. We appreciate the trust of all our clients as well as leading international law firms, which increasingly choose us as partners for transactions and cross-border projects in Central and Eastern Europe," commented the firm's managing partner Jaroslav Havel on the economic results.

HAVEL & PARTNERS' revenues have been growing continuously since the firm's founding in 2001. This is mainly due to the provision of legal and related tax services to major Czech, Slovak and international companies, and Czech and Slovak entrepreneurs, including about a third of the richest Czechs and Slovaks. Among the fastest growing areas in 2019 were mergers and acquisitions, which

set records last year in terms of both the number and the value of transactions, dispute resolution and arbitration, insolvency and restructuring, regulatory, public procurement, and the competition law and economics advisory group also grew significantly.

“In the future, we will continue to focus primarily on the most comprehensive legal cases, including the resolution of complex disputes. This year we especially want to further develop the tax law advisory group, which we significantly strengthened last year, as well as private client services. We are also planning to further develop the real estate advisory group, where we have extensive know-how, including legislative activity, and we also want to focus more on IT and technology,” said Jaroslav Havel of the firm’s plans for 2020.

HAVEL & PARTNERS, attorneys-at-law, with offices in Prague, Brno, Bratislava, Pilsen, Olomouc, and Ostrava, has a team of 220 lawyers, approx. 150 associates and 500 employees in total, including employees of the affiliated debt collection agency Cash Collectors, and is the largest independent law firm in Central Europe. Our clients include large international companies, leading Czech and Slovak firms, including strategic state-owned companies and public sector authorities, as well as medium-size businesses, individual entrepreneurs, and investors. We advise approximately 100 of the Fortune 500 companies, and almost 50 of the Czech Top 100 companies. HAVEL & PARTNERS currently provides its services to more than 1,500 clients. We have the most comprehensive international support available to both Czech and Slovak law firms. We provide legal advice in 12 world languages in more than 80 countries around the globe. Up to 70 % of the transactions we deal with involve an international aspect. We closely cooperate with leading international law firms in Europe, Asia, North America, Africa, and Australia. Thus, our clients have access to international and local know-how and expertise through more than 30,000 lawyers in nearly 160 countries. HAVEL & PARTNERS is the most successful law firm, providing the most comprehensive legal services in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, based on the total number of all nominations and awards in all years of the Law Firm of the Year awards. The firm has become the absolute winner of this competition three times in the last five years, receiving the main award Domestic Law Firm of the Year in the Czech Republic (2015, 2017, 2018) and ranking as one of the most recommended law firms in all categories of law. HAVEL & PARTNERS is also a three-time winner of the Law Firm of the Year award for Best Client Services (2015, 2016, 2019). HAVEL & PARTNERS has repeatedly been named the Best Law Firm in the Czech Republic by the international rating agency Who’s Who Legal (2018, 2019) and was also named the Best Law Firm of the Year in the Czech Republic as part of the Global Awards announced by Corporate LiveWire (2018). The firm was named the Best Law Firm in the Czech Republic in the M&A category based on the annual International Advisory Experts awards (2018, 2019) and the Law Firm of the Year competition (2019). In Slovakia, HAVEL & PARTNERS won the prestigious global M&A Today Awards six times in a row (2013–2018) and was ranked No. 1 in the same category in Lawyer International Legal 100 (2017, 2018). Prestigious international rating agencies EMIS DealWatch and Mergermarket have ranked HAVEL & PARTNERS among the leading law firms by the number of transactions completed in the entire CEE region since 2009. Based on annual awards of the Acquisition International magazine, HAVEL & PARTNERS has become the Law Firm of the Year 2019 in the M&A category in the CEE region.

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