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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ÅR Packaging acquires European tobacco-folding carton business of MeadWestvaco**

#### **Legal advice by Binder Grösswang and Weber & Co., as well as White & Case, Eversheds and Baker Botts**

MeadWestvaco Group ("MWV"), listed on the New York Stock Exchange, sells its European-based tobacco-folding carton and general packaging business to ÅR Packaging Group ("ÅR Packaging").

The relevant business includes manufacturing facilities for folding cartons, tobacco products and general packaging in Austria (Graz), Russia (Moscow) and Poland (Krakow) as well as assets in the Czech Republic (Svitavy). The purchase agreement was signed in mid-January 2015. The parties agreed to keep the purchase price confidential. Closing of the transaction is intended to take place in the first half of 2015.

Weber & Co. advised the purchaser ÅR Packaging with lead partner Stefan Weber (Corporate/M&A) as well as Katharina Kitzberger (partner, antitrust law) and Christoph Moser (partner, Corporate/M&A).

Binder Grösswang advised the seller MeadWestvaco with lead partner Michael Kutschera, as well as Gottfried Gassner and Martin Frenzel as core team (all Corporate/M&A) and Christine Dietz for antitrust law.

As to Russian, Polish and Czech law the purchaser ÅR Packaging was supported by White & Case, who are also in charge of the merger-control proceedings. As to labour law, MeadWestvaco was supported by Eversheds and by Baker Botts in relation to antitrust law.

MeadWestvaco Group is a global acting player in the field of packaging for solutions in particular in the fields of healthcare, beauty and personal care, food and beverage, electronics as well as tobacco.

The purchaser ÅR Packaging Group, established in 2011, with its corporate seat in Lund, Sweden, is one of Europe's leading companies in the special packaging sector, including in particular paperboard cartons, flexible packaging, and trays.

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