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ASAP and the Third National Meeting of Law Firms

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The ASAP was founded to defend law firms' interests and organise initiatives associated with or of importance to the practice of law. It is in this capacity that it has organised national meetings. This year, the third meeting will be held at Hotel Lisboa Plaza on 28 May. The meetings are open to all Portuguese law firms, regardless of whether they are ASAP members, and so all colleagues are more than welcome to participate.

The participants consider our model useful. In addition to the technical sessions, companies specialising in providing services to law firms will also be there in a dedicated area. Participants will therefore be able to find the leading insurance broker (AON) for lawyers, which has an exclusive policy for ASAP members, a company specialising in human resources (FIND) and another that creates websites for law firms (SOFTWAY). There will also be companies that operate in the area of legal information, such as PRIBERAM (which develops and markets Legix) and in the publication of legal books, such as Almedina and INCM (which also publishes *Diário da República*), and a marketing and advertising company that operates in the law sector with In-lex. The meeting will also be attended by a company that develops law office management software and sells a leading document management program (XTR). All these companies will be there to offer their services to the participants throughout the meeting.

The subjects for discussion are selected on the basis of their wide scope, as it is important for their interest not to be limited to only some law firms, due to their size or location. The speakers are chosen for their experience and knowledge of the subject matter and naturally their wish to contribute. This year, we will have a special guest, Pedro Pérez-Llorca, managing partner of a well-known Spanish law firm, Pérez-Llorca, who will share his views on the legal market in 2010 and its prospects for the future.

At this third national meeting, the ASAP will also launch a book, *Contributos para as Sociedades de Advogados*, which discusses issues of interest to law firms and is being published by Almedina. The ASAP will also present a survey that will involve more than 800 law firms in June, in partnership with the survey centre at Universidade Católica (CESOP).

We believe that this is how the ASAP can best pursue its goals and we are sure that only the participation of our colleagues will guarantee its success.

Pedro Cardigos,
President of the ASAP