Press Release

Francesco Gianni receives the "Outstanding Contribution Award" from Chambers Europe

For the first time, an Italian lawyer is awarded by the leading international legal directory for the outstanding contribution to the legal profession

Amsterdam, 6 May 2011 - The leading international legal directory Chambers Europe has awarded Francesco Gianni, Senior Partner of the Italian independent law firm Gianni, Origoni, Grippo & Partners, with the "Outstanding Contribution Award" at the annual Chambers Europe Awards ceremony which was held last night at the Hotel Okura in Amsterdam.

It is the first time that the award goes to an Italian lawyer.

The award, which is based on the opinions of general counsels from major European companies, honours those lawyers who bestowed an exceptional contribution to the legal profession and are recognised to be outstanding professionals not only in their markets, but also in an international scenario.

"Mr Francesco Gianni has long been one of Chambers & Partners' top ranked Italian lawyers" said Joanna Thomas, Editor of Chambers Europe. "He has been a star in our corporate rankings since the European Guide started, a rank that it is only achieved by those lawyers who truly define their market. In addition, he is a founding member of a true Italian success story. Clients we have spoken to call Mr Gianni 'a fantastic lawyer in a league of his own'. His profile, international outlook and magnificent reputation all brought him to our attention, and we are delighted to be able to recognise his work with an Outstanding Contribution award this year".

In 1988, Francesco Gianni founded Gianni, Origoni, Grippo & Partners which has grown to be one of the leading firms in Italy. Specialising in corporate and structured finance, Gianni has been a pivotal figure in the country's most significant cases throughout the last 20 years. He is currently the head of the firm's M&A practice.

Notes to Editor:

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[•] Gianni, Origoni, Grippo & Partners is an international law firm with over 330 lawyers distributed in the offices of Rome, Milan, Bologna, Padua, Turin, Abu Dhabi, Brussels, London and New York.

[•] **The Firm is considered among the leaders in Italy** in global business services and is active in the field of M&A, Corporate, Banking and Finance, Capital Markets, Antitrust and Regulatory, Real Estate, Litigation and Arbitration, Restructuring, Public Law and Tenders, Environmental, Projects, Tax, Labour and IP.