

Mazars grows global presence

Mid-tier accounting firm Mazars has strengthened its presence in Belgium, Canada and France.

Mazars in Belgium merged with Goossens Gossart Joos and Cardyn & Joos. The firm now employs 100 professionals in Brussels, Antwerp and Ghent with an estimated annual turnover of €11 million (\$16 million).

"We are delighted with this merger, which is a major step in terms of the development of Mazars in Belgium. It responds to the challenges of the market. Together, we will continue to serve our Belgian clients with professionalism, in accordance with the intrinsic values of Mazars," Mazars Belgium senior partner Lieven Acke said.

In Canada, the firm merged with Harel Drouin, taking its staff count to 100 professionals. Mazars has 700 Canadian clients and offers services in audit, advisory services, accounting and tax.

In central France, Mazars is joining forces with audit and advisory service firm ADH Experts-SAFREC, located in Chartres and

Orléans. ADH Experts-SAFREC last year reported turnover of €9.5 million, bringing Mazars' annual turnover in this region to €90 million.

The new firm employs more than 100 professionals and offers audit, accounting and advisory services to companies.

Mazars has also opened a new French office in Nantes.

"This represents a new stage in the development of Mazars in France. It fits into our long-term growth strategy with high quality teams capable of offering a large array of services to the whole financial community, local and national," Mazars director general Philippe Castagnac said.

According to the *International Accounting Bulletin's* most recent France survey (*issue 450*) Mazars revenue for the 2008 fiscal year was €286 million with 2,110 total staff. Globally the firm reported revenue of \$1.1 billion for 2008 with 9,459 total staff.

All three Mazars mergers took effect in September. ✦