

Maia, 28th June 2019

## SONAE'S DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR RELATIONS IN THE WORLD'S TOP 10

The Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), an organisation based in the USA, which represents more than 45,000 professionals from 85 countries, has distinguished Sonae's department of labour relations for the work it developed in the continuous improvement of procedures, which allowed a 30% reduction of expended time and contributed to 93% of favourable decisions in legal proceedings.

The Department of Labour Relations, which is part of Sonae MC and provides services to the whole of Sonae, having approximately 1,000 interlocutors within the organisation, was one in ten, throughout the world, distinguished as "2019 ACC Value Champion".

The award acknowledges the merit of the developed work which, through the introduction of technology, namely the creation of a technologic platform, made possible an optimisation of procedures with important benefits for all the stakeholders.

Marta Azevedo, director of the Department of Labour Relations, states: "Sonae seeks excellence in everything it does, committing to a continuous improvement as a means to innovate and reinforce its efficiency and effectiveness. The award given by ACC acknowledges the work we have developed because, with a small labour relations team, we have managed to optimise our tasks for a great business portfolio, investing in innovation and technology".

The new technologic platform allows the archiving and dynamic management of all relevant information. On the other hand, it generates indicators which allow users to monitor the evolution of processes through customised panels and broadcasts automatic notifications concerning the main deadlines and goals.

"We needed a process that would guarantee the preciseness of the information and would also allow quick and easy access. Being lawyers it is fundamental for us to control every document and deadline. The brainstorming between the legal team, our IT team and the external consultant produced amazing results", Marta Azevedo explains.





The list of companies distinguished with the "2019 ACC Value Champion" include, besides Sonae, the American companies Abbvie, MassMutual, McAfee, Rabo AgriFinance and Toyota Motor North America, Austria's Hatch and Telstra, South Africa's Anglo-American and German organisation Deutsche Bank.

## **About Association of Corporate Counsel**

The Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) is a global legal association which promotes the common professional interests of internal legal advisors who work for companies, associations and other organisations through information, education, collaborative work and the defence of interests. ACC represents more than 45,000 members in 85 countries, who are employed by more than 10,000 organisations, and seeks to connect its members to the people and interests needed for personal and professional growth. More information on <a href="https://www.acc.com">www.acc.com</a>.

