

- . the possibility for these professions to organize as business corporations;
- . the possibility to form multidisciplinary firms, in other words, associating lawyers and public accountants; and
- . the possibility of forming multinational firms.

The first point, which is imperative for the creation of large firms, is currently being implemented in most countries.

The two last points, which are contained in the green paper issued by the British government, have resulted in heated discussions in both the United Kingdom (U.K.) and France. It is frequently pointed out that they may only be adopted in one form or another if European regulations are somewhat harmonized. In effect, at this time there is no apparent compatibility among the professions in the various countries. Hence, as the situation stands at the moment, even if a French lawyer (*avocat*) is authorized under British law to become part of a British firm of solicitors, this would fail to be in accordance with French regulations for the legal profession (*la profession d'avocat*).

The second point will clearly have substantial consequences for the position of the "big eight" (now the "big six" accounting firms), not only in the European legal market, but also with respect to international legal consulting.

### 3.3 Developing Community Law

Community law has acquired increasing pre-eminence over national laws in the

areas of competition, anti-dumping measures, the environment and the regulation of mergers and acquisitions, thus reinforcing the importance of places such as Brussels and Luxembourg for firms serving large enterprises, for whom these measures are important.

### 3.4 The "Europeanization" of Business

The "Europeanization" of business is a principal consequence of the Europe 1992 phenomenon as a whole. A constantly growing number of enterprises, which, until now, operated mainly in their domestic market, are seeking to acquire a European dimension and to become established on the European market. The considerable increase in mergers and acquisitions in Europe since 1985, dominated by intra-European transactions, serves as an example. This is but one factor in the more general trend toward globalization of the economy in which European enterprises also participate, and for which they are assisted by their growth at the European level.

This trend creates a new demand for European and international legal services and causes law firms to reorganize. If they are not able to meet the demand they will not only miss out on the new market, but also, in the long term, lose a portion of their traditional clientele, which will turn to where its new needs will be met.