

European corporate group

Following the economic turmoil brought on by the financial crisis, corporate deal activity saw an inevitable slowdown. However, with the economy slowly stabilising, a revival of corporate activity is envisaged, bringing with it a number of opportunities for businesses across all sectors.

Our services

Our European corporate/M&A practice advises on domestic and cross-border corporate transactions across a wide range of commercial sectors.

Our core services include advising on:

- public and private mergers and acquisitions
- equity capital markets transactions
- joint ventures
- restructuring and reorganisations
- venture capital and private equity

Our expertise ranges from setting up new ventures to major international acquisitions and listings. Our client base consists of clients from all industry sectors and ranges from entrepreneurs and fast-growing businesses to government departments, multi-nationals and major listed companies.

Much of our work is of an international nature with clients based across Europe, the US, the CIS countries and around the world. We advise regularly on the particular issues involved in doing business and conducting transactions across borders. Our integrated international offices allow us to offer a multi-jurisdictional corporate capability in all of the major European business centres and we can provide our clients with a single point of contact covering all relevant jurisdictions. Our global outlook means that we appreciate how cultural differences may impact on a transaction and can immediately highlight any potential pitfalls.

Our European corporate practice is complemented by experts across the firm in practice areas such as banking and finance, tax, competition/anti-trust, employment and pensions, financial services, real estate, IP and technology and regulatory. This enables us to provide the right expertise for any particular transaction.

Highlights of our experience

- Advising on along-standing clients the **BBC** and **BBC Worldwide** for over 30 years on various M&A and investment transactions. Recent transactions include advising BBC Worldwide on its equity investment for

minority stakes in independent production companies Burning Bright Productions and Slim Film and TV.

- Advising **Sopra Group** the leading technology group, on its two simultaneous UK acquisitions of 100% of the share capital of Tieto UK Ltd and Business & Decision Ltd.
- Acting for **Ellwood Group Inc.**, a steel and iron company based in Ellwood (PA), on their disposal of a facility located in Belgium to German company, Georgsmarienhutte Holding GmbH.
- Advising **Avocet Mining plc**, a gold mining company with assets in South East Asia and West Africa, on £60m acquisition of Wega Mining ASA and the \$200m disposal of all of its Malaysian and Indonesian mining assets, involving the sale of eight subsidiary companies.
- Advising longstanding client, **Olympus**, on all corporate and M&A matters in Europe, including advising the group on the purchase of numerous distributors in the EU and the integration of them as subsidiaries.
- Advising **FFastFill plc**, a leading software provider to the global derivatives community, on a UK vendor placing in connection with the acquisition of the technology consulting and software solutions business of US company WTD Consulting Inc.
- Acting for **VWR International LLC**, a Philadelphia based life science company in the acquisition of various distributors in the UK, France and Belgium.
- Representing and acting for **Alpha** in its defense against a litigation brought by minority shareholders of Mecatherm.

A selection of our clients



Why choose us

- As a leading European corporate practice advising on European and international, public and private corporate transactions, we have the expertise and experience to achieve the desired outcome for your transaction.
- We can provide the practical (and where necessary innovative) legal and commercial advice you need, delivering it in a way which is tailored to your particular needs.
- Our lawyers are commercial, solutions-focused and above all client-focused in their approach so you can be sure we will work to achieve the best result for your business.
- Our skills and experience ensures your transaction is dealt with by experts who can provide legal advice on any given corporate transaction.
- Our expertise is consistently endorsed by the legal directories so working with us means working with one of the leading firms in the field.
- By providing outstanding legal advice based on economic know-how and understanding, we add value and provide exceptional support to your corporate activities.
- In addition to technical excellence our lawyers have expert economic understanding and sector knowledge so you can be sure we have the industry knowledge to understand the needs of your business.
- We pride ourselves on providing our clients with a high quality, partner led service.

“Highly commercial and able to understand the needs of [their clients’] business”

**Quotation from
Chambers Global 2013**

“Excellent, business-minded team has “very good negotiation skills”

**Quotation from
Legal 500 EMEA 2013**

“The team demonstrates superb commerciality.”

**Quotation from
Chambers UK 2012**

“In transactions, they manage both the legal aspects and the client relationships very well.”

**Quotation from
Chambers UK 2011**

“Praised by clients for the “ability to always find the best solution”.”

**Quotation from
Legal 500 EMEA, 2011**

“[A] “high-quality” corporate department”.

**Quotation from
Legal 500 EMEA, 2011**

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