

akd : we're on it



our Brussels team :
at a glance

practical advice: *pragmatic action*

AKD is one of the largest independent law firms in the Benelux. With over 600 committed lawyers, civil law notaries, tax advisers and support staff, we deliver high-quality legal, regulatory and tax services across all industry sectors through a full-service approach. Our clients range from large multinationals and family-owned businesses to high-net-worth individuals, financial institutions and the public sector.

International

With offices in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, AKD offers integrated, independent and international services in stable jurisdictions. As business and digitalisation transcend borders, our specialists look beyond disciplines to ensure seamless, end-to-end support. Outside the Benelux, we work with an extensive network of reputable partner firms to form experienced, multi-disciplinary teams that help clients do business worldwide.

How we work

AKD takes a pragmatic approach, offering tailored solutions that reflect current legal, tax, economic and political realities. Recognised for solving complex challenges creatively and effectively, we strive to add value through professional excellence and dedication. Our open, no-nonsense culture fosters a transparent and inclusive environment.

our Brussels office









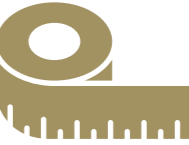
Welcome to AKD's Brussels office, part of a dynamic full-service law firm. We distinguish ourselves through unwavering commitment to excellence and our extensive range of legal and tax services tailored to meet the diverse needs of our clients across various industries.

Integrated approach

Our fully integrated approach ensures that all of our practices are involved in serving businesses, organisations and individuals, allowing us to offer our clients a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to their legal needs.

Challenger

Positioned as a challenger in the Belgian legal market, AKD's Brussels office is experiencing steady growth fuelled by our dedication to providing exceptional legal and tax services. We strive to expand our client base by developing strong and lasting relationships, fostering trust, and consistently exceeding expectations. Our growth trajectory is driven by our commitment to staying at the forefront of legal and tax developments, investing in the professional development of our attorneys, and embracing innovative technology to optimise our services.

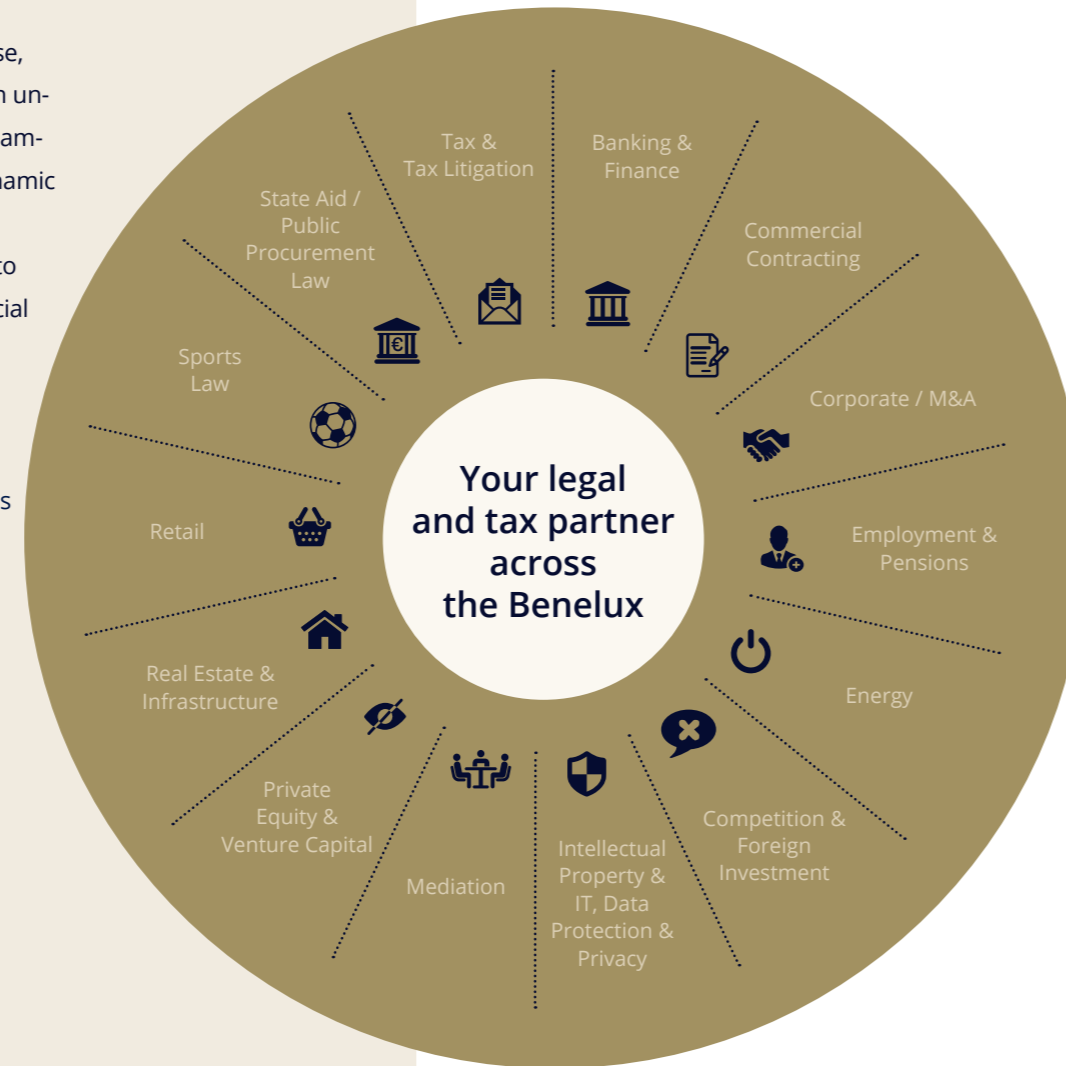
<p>Law firm since 1917</p> 	<p>High-end client solutions</p> 	<p>600+ Lawyers Civil-law notaries Tax advisers Support</p> 
<p> 6 Offices in the Benelux</p>	<p>International network</p> 	<p>AKD covers all important areas of law</p> 
<p>Full service Benelux law firm</p> 	<p>Pragmatic approach</p> 	<p>Tailored solutions</p> 



Brussels : *office expertise*

At the heart of Europe, AKD's Brussels office is a powerhouse of legal and tax expertise, continuously evolving to meet the demands of an ever-changing market. Driven by an unwavering commitment to excellence, we deliver a true multi-disciplinary approach, seamlessly combining advisory, implementation, litigation, and dispute resolution. Our dynamic team is not just a participant but a challenger in the Belgian international legal arena — boldly redefining standards, relentlessly dedicated to our clients, and determined to turn complexity into opportunity. With our 360° legal expertise, we have assisted financial institutions, governments & public sector entities, housing corporations, technology, media & telecom (ICT) companies, and sports & entertainment organisations.

- Banking & Finance - Antoine De Raeve, Jan Missoul
- Commercial Contracting - Steven Ongena, Paul Van den Bulck, Pol Cools
- Corporate / M&A - Timothy Speelman
- Competition & Foreign Investment - Koen Platteau, Joost Houdijk
- Employment & Pensions - Julien Hick
- Energy - Thomas Chellingsworth, Christine Delagaye
- Intellectual Property & IT, Data Protection & Privacy - Paul Van den Bulck
- Mediation - Paul Van den Bulck
- Private Equity & Venture Capital - Timothy Speelman
- Real Estate & Infrastructure - Steven Ongena, Pol Cools
- Retail - Steven Ongena, Pol Cools
- Sports Law - Paul Van den Bulck
- State Aid / Public Procurement Law - Pieter Kuypers, Nikee Groot
- Tax & Tax Litigation - Frédéricq Jacquet, Elien Van Malder



your legal partner of choice :

As evidenced by client feedback in international legal directories Chambers & Partners, The Legal 500 and IFLR1000.

Banking & Finance

The AKD banking and finance team covers the entire spectrum of lending and credit products, with a particular focus on acquisition and leveraged finance, project finance in renewables (onshore and offshore wind, solar, biomass) and infrastructure (PPP) projects, corporate syndicated loans, real estate finance, structured finance, trade & export finance and debt capital markets. AKD acts on the side of (bank and non-bank) lenders, borrowers and sponsors, in each case both on domestic and cross-border finance transactions.

Practice lead:

- Antoine De Raeve
- Jan Missoul

Ranked in:

- Chambers & Partners Europe and Global 2026
- IFLR1000 2025
- The Legal 500: EMEA 2025

Client feedback:

- 'AKD has very good negotiation skills and is able to handle pressure while keeping technicalities in mind. It also offers a very hands-on, personalised approach.'
- 'AKD works as one team across the different jurisdictions. All team members are very dedicated and the responsiveness is excellent.'



your legal partner of choice :

As evidenced by client feedback in international legal directories Chambers & Partners, The Legal 500 and IFLR1000.

Corporate / M&A

AKD focuses on cross-border transactions and projects work, handling M&A for clients in a variety of industries including financial services, chemicals, and tech, as well as advising funds and sellers on international private equity investments, equity raisings, and buy-and-build strategies.

Practice lead:

- Timothy Speelman

Ranked in:

- The Legal 500: EMEA 2025
- IFLR1000 2025

Client feedback:

- ‘Excellent partner availability and overall responsiveness. Business approach in dealing with clients and delivering legal services.’
- ‘AKD provided pragmatic advice, covering all aspects (corporate, tax, M&A) through a single efficient team.’

Real Estate & Infrastructure

AKD fields a strong real estate and infrastructure team willing to go the extra mile. With extensive real estate transaction experience and expertise across all facets of real estate law, the team covers the entire lifecycle of a property — from acquisitions and development to property and asset management. They advise domestic and inter-national clients, including investors, sponsors, lenders and contractors. AKD also excels in infrastructure projects, advising on large-scale development and PPPs, drafting contracts, providing strategic advice, and handling disputes.

Practice lead:

- Steven Ongena
- Pol Cools

Ranked in:

- The Legal 500: EMEA 2025

Client feedback:

- ‘The individuals were excellent and always going beyond their brief. They knew their job, and easily explained complex legal points in language that was easy to understand and use for our commercial advantage.’
- ‘Considerable expertise and deep knowledge of the issues we had. Also very professional, pragmatic and solution focused.’

Employment & Pensions

The employment and pensions team advises on issues including dismissals, union negotiations, and the implementation of new working practices.

Practice lead:

- Julien Hick

Ranked in:

- The Legal 500: EMEA 2025

Client feedback:

- ‘Highly responsive, highly knowledgeable, very easy-going.’
- ‘Availability, very high responsiveness, strong listeners, real business enablers, excellent sparring partners, pragmatic approach. What I strongly value is that their client’s interests come first.’
- ‘Our experience collaborating with AKD is exceptional, the team is always available and ready to support even on very short notice.’

Retail

AKD’s retail team has a long-established relationship with several high-profile retailers, assisting clients from the world of food and beverage, cosmetics, electric bikes and clothing, to name a few. The group supports its clients throughout the course of retail leases, acting for both tenants and landlords. In addition, the retail team regularly advises and litigates in franchise and distribution matters, often with a foreign/non-Belgian component.

Practice lead:

- Steven Ongena
- Pol Cools

Ranked in:

- The Legal 500: EMEA 2025

Client feedback:

- ‘AKD operates internationally and is active in several areas of law. They are not only intellectually oriented but also pragmatically minded. Besides that, the attorneys are very approachable and flexible.’
- ‘They deliver very fast to a high level.’

your legal partner of choice :

As evidenced by client feedback in international legal directories Chambers & Partners, The Legal 500 and IFLR1000.

Intellectual Property & IT, Data Protection & Privacy

AKD supports clients in legal issues relating to information technology (IT), data protection, intellectual property (IP) and media & entertainment. The team advises on all transactional aspects of IT or IP projects.

Practice lead:

- Paul Van den Bulck

Client feedback:

- ‘Strong partner involvement.’
- ‘Incredible response times.’
- ‘Technically outstanding.’
- ‘Sensible, pragmatic advice.’

Competition & Foreign Investment

AKD’s firm-wide Competition & Foreign Investment team is based in Brussels, home of the key EU institutions. The team has a strong expertise in the full range of competition law matters under EU and national competition laws. This includes merger control, cartel investigations, abuse of dominance and/or economic dependence, compliance work and competition law litigation, including litigation on private enforcement of competition law. The team also assists clients on national Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regimes. The team represents clients across a variety of sectors, including agri-food, distribution, energy, life sciences, transport and private equity. We regularly intervene before the European Commission, national competition authorities, the EU and national courts.

Practice lead:

- Koen Platteau
- Joost Houdijk

Ranked in:

- The Legal 500: EMEA 2025
- Chambers & Partners Europe 2026

Client feedback:

- ‘Skilled and experienced, quickly available upon request.’
- ‘Good expertise, very service oriented.’
- ‘Skilful, to the point, pragmatic.’

Tax & Tax Litigation

AKD advises clients on domestic and cross-border tax law and social security matters with a particular focus on advisory and litigation work in the field of direct taxes for businesses, such as institutional and transactional corporate tax, taxation of various forms of employee compensation as well as European and international tax law.

Practice lead:

- Frédéricq Jacquet
- Elien Van Malder

Ranked in:

- ITR World Tax 2025 (General Corporate Tax, Tax Controversy, and Transfer Pricing)

Client feedback:

- ‘Strong knowledge and client orientation.’
- ‘Extremely impressed with expertise, knowledge and level of service.’

Energy

The AKD energy team has decades of experience in the field of energy and climate law, focusing on onshore and offshore renewable energy and decarbonisation projects, the market organisation (e.g. price regulation, subsidies, the unbundling of monopoly and competitive activities) and energy litigation (e.g. Constitutional Court and Council of State challenges to new legislation and regulation). Their broad practice, combined with AKD’s multidisciplinary approach, offers energy market actors an efficient one-stop shop and full lifecycle support (“drawing board to decommissioning”) for their projects.

Practice lead:

- Thomas Chellingsworth
- Christine Delagaye

Ranked in:

- Chambers & Partners Europe 2026
- The Legal 500: EMEA 2025

Client feedback:

- ‘Expertise in the energy industry is the key element to choose for AKD - they understand the client’s business, their objectives and how the requests are related to their strategy.’
- ‘AKD’s practice stands out due to its deep expertise across a wide range of legal areas, combined with a commercial understanding that is critical to solving complex business challenges. The team balances technical legal knowledge with pragmatic advice that supports long-term strategic goals.’

your legal partner of choice :

As evidenced by client feedback in international legal directories Chambers & Partners, The Legal 500 and IFLR1000.

State Aid

Our experts in AKD's firm-wide State aid team advise on complex legal concepts of State aid law, such as 'economic advantage', the market economy operator concept or 'effect on intra-Community trade'. They are eminently capable of assessing whether a measure constitutes State aid and whether it should be notified to the European Commission. Our specialists have extensive experience designing State aid-proof transactions between public authorities and companies. Where a notification process is unavoidable, the team assists authorities and/or companies in the process. The team advises, amongst other matters, on large-scale investment projects by (local) authorities, (real estate) transactions by public undertakings and the design of services of general economic interest. The team also submits complaints and litigates for companies whose competitors received unlawful State aid.

Practice lead:

- Pieter Kuypers
- Koen Platteau

Public Procurement Law

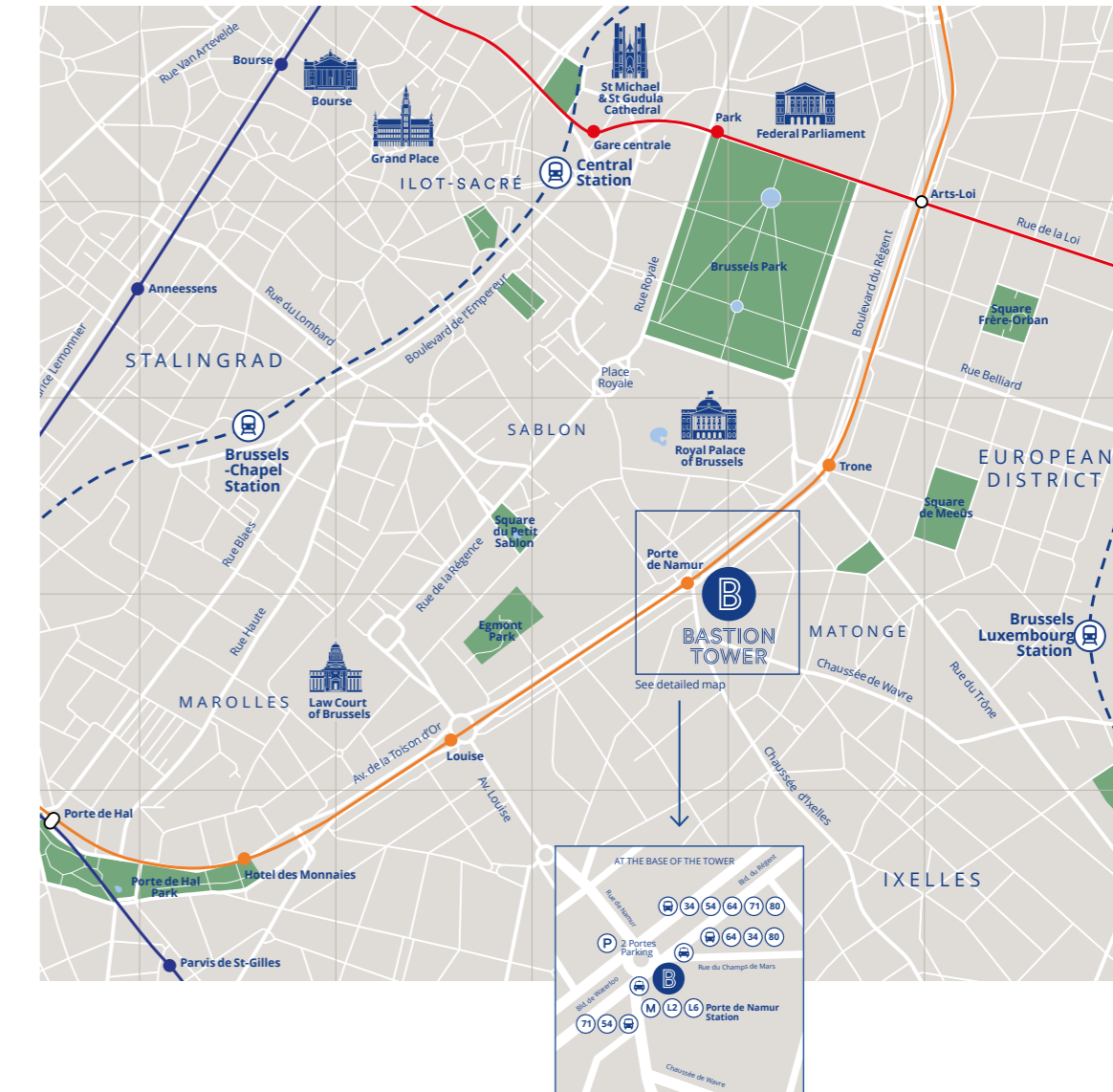
AKD's Public procurement team has advised and litigated on all aspects of procurement law from its Brussels office for 30 years. Our client base includes European agencies, large and medium-sized companies submitting bids in both EU tenders (Financial Regulation) as well as Dutch tenders (Procurement Directives and Dutch Procurement Act), the Dutch government, local and regional authorities and so-called 'bodies governed by public law'. For example, our experts provide advice on the question whether contracts are subject to an obligation to issue a call for tenders and on the very structure of tender procedures. The team also performs reviews of tender documents for contracting authorities and tenderers alike. Our team represents clients across a variety of sectors, including IT, health care, infrastructure, HR and energy. We regularly intervene before the EU and national courts.

Practice lead:

- Pieter Kuypers
- Nikee Groot



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contact : us



Pol Cools

is a Counsel and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office with 20 years of experience in transactional, advisory and contentious matters. His legal practice focuses on Belgian real estate, retail and distribution law. In addition to sale and purchase transactions, Pol's daily work involves assisting clients with starting up, expanding and restructuring their retail network (retail leases, franchising, etc.). Clients include Belgian and international companies (active in clothing, cosmetics, etc.) and public authorities that are looking for hands-on legal advice.

Pol's broad expertise around the negotiating table and before the courts allows him to provide solid, solution-led advice to his clients.

In the real estate area, Pol focuses on negotiating

and drafting a diverse range of agreements, such as transfers in full ownership, VAT leases, usufruct agreements, etc. Pol assists both sellers and buyers.

Pol's retail clients appreciate his experience as a negotiator and litigator for commercial, office and warehouse leases (including assignments, renewals and terminations) and distribution matters such as franchising and agency. Pol regularly represents companies before the Belgian Courts in the framework of the Belgian Retail Lease Act and in complex commercial matters.

The Legal 500 has, for years, recommended Pol for real estate and retail and refers to him as Leading Associate.

Pol speaks Dutch, English and French.



Thomas Chellingsworth

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office, with more than 25 years of experience in energy law and energy projects. His clients are mainly developers of renewable energy projects, grid operators and public authorities. The common thread in his practice is the energy and climate transition, with a strong focus on green energy projects (including offshore and onshore wind, biomass and biosteam), the regulation of energy infrastructure (including electricity, gas, heat and hydrogen networks as well as submarine cables and pipelines), market organisation (including the regulation of network tariffs and energy prices, subsidy schemes, the unbundling of monopoly and competitive activities,

security of supply and capacity mechanisms) and energy-related contracts (including (corporate) PPAs, FIDIC-based construction agreements and contracts for connection and access to networks). In addition to advising on energy projects, Thomas represents clients in dispute resolution procedures before the civil courts, the Council of State, the Market Court and the Constitutional Court.

Thomas is ranked in Band 1 by Chambers & Partners and as a 'Leading Individual' by The Legal 500.

Thomas speaks English, Dutch and French.

Thomas Chellingsworth

Partner

Expertise: Energy

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Antoine De Raeve

Partner

Expertise: Banking & Finance

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Antoine De Raeve

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office and brings more than 31 years of experience to the firm, essentially in the area of banking and finance. His practice covers the entire spectrum of lending and credit products, with a particular focus on acquisition and leveraged finance, corporate syndicated loans, real estate finance and trade & export finance. He acts on the side of (bank- and non-bank) lenders, borrowers and sponsors, in each case both on domestic and cross-border finance transactions.

Antoine is a member of the Dutch-speaking Brussels Bar and joined AKD in 2023 from another international law firm where he had practiced since 1991.

He has been top-ranked "Band 1", "Market Leader" and "Tier 1" in all major banking and finance legal

directories for many years, with excellent client praise. For example, in Chambers Europe (ed. 2023) one of Antoine's clients is quoted saying that "Antoine De Raeve is one of the best lawyers I have met. He is brilliant, commercial and available and is a very good speaker, arguing perfectly to defend his clients' interests", while Legal 500 (ed. 2023) quotes another client: "Antoine De Raeve is under our speed dial for any transaction in Benelux. He is knowledgeable, pragmatic, friendly and always gets the deal done at a good price".

Antoine holds a law degree from the University of Ghent (Belgium), as well as a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Cornell University (Ithaca, NY).

Antoine speaks fluent in Dutch, French and English.



Christine Delagaye

Partner

Expertise: Energy

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Christine Delagaye

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office. Her focus is on the energy and climate transition.

A central place in Christine's practice is occupied by renewable energy and decarbonisation projects (including offshore and onshore wind, biomass, geothermal energy, district heating, hydrogen and carbon capture (including CCS and CCU)). She assists clients in negotiating and drafting development and framework agreements, construction and maintenance contracts (such as TSAs, SAAs, EPC and BOP contracts, often based on FIDIC templates) and power purchase agreements (physical and virtual (corporate) PPAs). In addition, she advises

clients on regulatory energy law (with respect to subsidy mechanisms, for instance, or connection and access to the grid, ancillary services such as voltage control, security of supply (capacity remuneration mechanisms, for example), domain concessions and licences, and the regulation of underground and submarine cables and pipelines) and ESG. Christine has extensive experience handling project-financed projects and related bankability issues.

Christine is ranked in Band 4 in Chambers Europe and in The Legal 500.

Christine speaks Dutch, English and French.



Nikee Groot

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office and part of the EU and Competition Law team. She specialises in international and European law with a focus on EU procurement law and private enforcement of competition law.

Nikee advises Dutch as well as international clients and litigates both before Dutch courts and the Court of Justice of the EU. Nikee makes sure that the strategy in each case takes into account the relevant commercial or political interests, which is highly valued by her clients.

Nikee Groot
Partner

Expertise: EU Law, Competition & Regulation

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EU procurement law

Nikee has a broad knowledge of the Dutch Procurement Act as well as the Financial Regulation 2024/2509 (EU tenders). Her experience ranges from IT tenders and tenders for the hiring of temporary workers to tenders regarding healthcare. The combination of representing both contracting authorities and tenderers ensures valuable insights in each case Nikee takes on.

Private enforcement of competition law

Nikee specialises in representing parties before the Dutch courts in cartel damages cases, with a focus on plaintiff litigation. In these cases, she combines her knowledge of competition law, civil law and procedural law to achieve the best possible results.

Nikee speaks Dutch, English and French.



Julien Hick

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office and specialises in Belgian and European labor law, with a particular focus on corporate employment law matters. In this framework, he regularly assists national and international businesses with restructurings, individual dismissals, transfers of undertakings, compensation & benefits questions and employment law aspects of M&A transactions.

He has developed expertise in the field of data protection, with an HR focus. Julien regularly advises national and international clients on various HR aspects of the protection of personal data, including internal reporting and whistleblowing schemes, processing of sensitive data, monitoring of employees, background checks, etc. He is an experienced litigator and regularly represents businesses before the Belgian Employment Tribunals.

Julien's clients include national and international businesses from various sectors, amongst which the financial services, life sciences and consumer goods industries.

Julien Hick
Partner

Expertise: Employment & Pensions

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He is also part of AKD's Sports & Entertainment team and advises sportspeople and artists.

International guides recognise Julien as "pragmatic and responsive" (Legal500, 2019) and a "key lawyer" (Legal500, 2020). "an outstanding expert and trusted advisor" (Legal500, 2023).

Julien is ranked in Chambers Europe.

Julien has been a member of the Brussels Bar since 2004. Prior to joining AKD, Julien worked for 17 years in the Brussels offices of two other international law firms. He is a member of the European Employment Lawyers' Association and the Belgian Association of Employment Law Practitioners (Association des juristes praticiens du droit social).

Julien speaks French, Dutch and English.



Joost Houdijk

is a Counsel and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office and part of the EU and Competition Law team. He advises and litigates on cartel arrangements and abuse of dominant positions. In addition, he regularly assists businesses with merger notifications to the European Commission and the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets ('ACM'). Joost also represents businesses and public authorities in litigation before Dutch courts and the Court of Justice of the EU.

In addition to competition law, Joost specialises in Foreign Direct Investment ('FDI') regulation. His practice also encompasses EU free movement law, EU transportation law and consumer protection law.

Clients value Joost for his razor-sharp analysis of complex legal issues, and for his ability to think along with organisations about the specific questions of law they encounter. They appreciate the fact that he strives to reach the best possible outcome in each case with maximum efficiency and creativity. Joost supervised successful ACM merger notifications to the Dutch and Belgian competition authorities, and coordinated international merger control notifications with favourable results. These include the acquisition by VDL of the coach and touring car divisions of Van Hool, and the acquisition by Standard Investment Netherlands of Tank Newco/Verwater, a company active in the construction and maintenance of tanks for chemical and petrochemical installations. Joost also represents

companies making FDI notifications, both in Belgium and the Netherlands. He assisted a number of healthcare enterprises that were being investigated by the ACM for cartel practices. The investigation was completed without any of the organisations involved being indicted. A company he assisted in comprehensive cartel practices investigations into the agribusiness sector was VanRijsingenGreen. In addition, Joost drafts distribution agreements and strategies for companies active in the area of fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) and other consumer goods.

Joost regularly lectures at universities and private educational institutes, such as the Radboud University of Nijmegen. He has a large number of publications to his name, published in dozens of national and international journals. Joost has also co-authored books and reports. In 2009, Joost received his PhD for an extensive thesis on public interests in competition law.

In addition, Joost has been a long-standing editor of the multilingual Benelux journal *Le Droit des Affaires/Het Ondernemingsrecht* ('DAOR'), which addresses all aspects of economic and business law. His memberships include the International Bar Association ('IBA'), the Dutch Competition Law Association, and the Dutch Association for Civil Procedural Law.

Joost speaks Dutch, English and French.



Frédéricq Jacquet

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office specialising in domestic and cross-border tax and social security matters. With a focus on providing comprehensive solutions for individuals, Belgian-based companies, and multinational organisations, Frédéricq offers expertise in various areas of tax consulting and global mobility projects.

Frédéricq's expertise extends to structuring compensation and rewards schemes, both domestically and internationally, ensuring optimal implementation and compliance with tax and social security regulations. Frédéricq actively assists employers in managing salary costs by leveraging wage tax exemptions they are legally entitled to, conducting feasibility studies, applying for tax rulings, and filing tax claims.

Frédéricq was admitted to the Brussels bar in 2001.

Before joining AKD, Frédéricq gained valuable experience at a renowned Big4 company. Since 2011, he has been an ITAA-certified tax advisor. Frédéricq is ranked as Highly Regarded in ITR World Tax.

Frédéricq's contributions to the field of taxation extend beyond his professional engagements. He has authored numerous articles in tax periodicals and is a sought-after speaker at conferences and webinars on Belgian and international tax topics.

With his profound understanding of tax matters, extensive experience, and dedication to staying at the forefront of industry trends, Frédéricq is a trusted advisor to companies seeking expert guidance and tailored solutions for their tax and human resources challenges.

Frédéricq speaks French, English and Dutch.

Joost Houdijk
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Frédéricq Jacquet
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Pieter Kuypers

Partner

Expertise: EU and Competition Law

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Pieter Kuypers

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office. He is part of the EU and Competition Law team. He specialises in European law and focuses, within this legal field, on procurement, competition (including private enforcement) and State aid law. Pieter has particular knowledge of procurement by the EU institutions (Regulation 2024/2509/EU). Having written a PhD on the choice of forum in private international law (University Leiden, 2008), Pieter also has wide-ranging knowledge of private international law, in particular in the fields of conflicts of jurisdiction and private enforcement of competition rules. He deals with and advises on cases involving care, energy, competition and the government.

Pieter represents businesses, government and semi-government bodies before European and Dutch courts. His clients include Dutch railway manager ProRail and publishing company Malmberg (Sanoma). They appreciate his smart solutions, strategic advice and practical approach. Pieter's broad experience and keen legal knowledge help him present compelling advice.

After obtaining his PhD in 2008, Pieter became a full professor in European and national procurement law at Radboud University Nijmegen, where he lectures on EU public procurement and competition law. In addition, he lectures on procurement law at the Europäische Rechtswissenschaft Akademie (ERA) in Trier, Germany, and at the Center for Post-academic Education (CPO). He is a professor at the Grotius academy for post-graduate education for public procurement lawyers, teaching public procurement law to lawyers of local and regional authorities. He also gives guest lectures at other universities in the Netherlands and abroad.

Pieter regularly publishes and has written several books, for instance on private international law (Choice of forum in private international law, Kluwer 2008), public procurement law (Public procurement law, Boom Basics (2021)), State aid law (EU Staatssteunregels (2020)) and civil law (Garanties in de rechtspraak (2015)). In May 2022, his book on the market economy and regulation of social services has been published by Kluwer.

Pieter speaks Dutch, English, French, German and Italian.



Jan Missoul

Partner

Expertise: Banking & Finance

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Jan Missoul

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office and works in the Banking & Finance practice group. He specialises in Project Finance with a particular focus on renewables (onshore and offshore wind, solar, biomass) and infrastructure (PPP) projects, Leveraged Finance, Real Estate Finance, Structured Finance and Debt Capital Markets. He also has extensive experience of Euroclear-related matters and securities law.

He advises borrowers as well as lenders, including private equity firms, project sponsors, developers and national and international financial institutions. He assisted in the takeover of several financial institutions and advised on legal and regulatory aspects of the supervision of the financial markets.

Before joining AKD, Jan worked at another major Dutch law firm for almost 12 years, where he advised developers and banks on various offshore and onshore wind projects in Belgium and abroad, among other things.

Jan is ranked as Up and Coming in Chambers Global and Chambers Europe, and also as "Key Lawyer" in the Banking, Finance and Capital Markets field in the Legal500 EMEA (2022 edition).

Jan speaks Dutch, English and French.



Steven Ongena

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office, specialising in real estate. He advises on diverse real estate transactions, covering the full spectrum of legal instruments, such as transfers in full ownership, transfers of rights in rem and leases. The Legal 500 has recommended Steven for real estate over the past ten years.

Steven's real estate practice focuses on long-term projects such as the relocation of head-quarters or production facilities. Often these projects will also include a construction component. Steven also advises retail clients throughout the retail life cycle, namely developing, managing and restructuring a network.

For more than 25 years, Steven has been providing clients with well thought-out advice and representation, both at the negotiation table and in court. His clients range from large corporations to governments at home and abroad. Steven aims at explaining the practical implications of the law, as well as the prevailing market standards and expectations.

Steven Ongena

Partner

Expertise: Real Estate, Commercial Contracting & Litigation

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Steven has helped to develop the firm's current retail practice, which includes some of the world's most prestigious brands and covers a broad range of sectors such as the clothing, cosmetics, food & beverages and the car industry. Steven advises both on developments via third parties (agents, franchisees and distributors) and on developments via internally managed sales outlets. For three years in a row, the Legal 500 has described Steven's retail practice as class leading for Belgium.

Steven is ranked as Leading Individual in The Legal 500: EMEA.

Steven equally has a litigation practice which focuses on contractual disputes, with an emphasis on disputes resulting from the termination of distribution agreements.

Steven also regularly represents clients in lease renewals. In this type of cases, landlords and tenants must submit their dispute to court if they disagree on the terms of renewal. Steven's cases usually include a cross-border element.

Steven speaks Dutch, English and French.



Koen Platteau

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office with over 30 years of experience in EU and competition law.

Koen is an all-round competition lawyer handling the full range of EU and Belgian competition law matters. He advises and represents clients before EU institutions, national competition authorities, the Court of Justice of the EU and national courts.

He has significant experience handling merger control cases, cartel investigations, abuse of dominance cases, compliance work, competition law litigation and State aid.

He also advises more broadly on EU regulatory matters.

His practice spans a wide variety of sectors, including agri-food, distribution, energy, life sciences, technology and private equity.

As member of the Brussels Bar, Koen regularly speaks at conferences on various competition law issues and has written extensively on competition law matters.

Koen speaks Dutch, English and French.

Koen Platteau

Partner

Expertise: EU Law, Competition & Regulation

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Timothy Speelman

Partner

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& Venture Capital

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Timothy Speelman

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office. His practice focuses on domestic and international mergers and acquisitions, private equity and venture capital (including risk capital) investments, exits and management buy-outs. He also advises companies on corporate governance matters and restructurings.

Timothy's clients include private and listed companies, management and investment funds. According to the Legal 500 EMEA clients appreciate him for being a 'natural leader', for his 'sharpness of analysis' and for being 'a good negotiator'. He is also recommended in IFLR1000.

Timothy is a member of the Brussels Bar since 1997.

He holds an LL.M (with honors) from King's College London, a master's degree in law (licentiaat), with distinction, from KU Leuven, and a bachelor's degree in law (candidat) from the Université de Namur.

Timothy is an active member of the Belgian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (BVA).

Timothy speaks Dutch, English and French.



Paul Van den Bulck

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Paul Van den Bulck

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office. He supports clients in legal issues relating to information technology (IT), data protection, intellectual property (IP) and media & entertainment. His advice covers all transactional aspects of IT or IP projects. He also helps clients across the world to resolve disputes and conduct legal proceedings. Paul's clients come from a wide range of different sectors, such as healthcare, technology, and sports & entertainment. His advice extends to both day-to-day matters and strategic issues. His clients appreciate his 'deep commitment' and 'rapid response times' and regard him as 'technically brilliant' and capable of providing 'practical and pragmatic' advice, as described in The Legal 500.

In addition to his work at AKD, Paul lectures at various universities and academic centers and he is also a

member of scientific committees. He regularly publishes articles and gives lectures on IT and IP issues at conferences throughout the world.

Paul's data protection practice focuses on all areas of national and international data protection and security, including general compliance (such as processing for HR purposes, CRM strategy and direct marketing), information security and cybercrime, international data transfer, intra-group agreements, the processing of cloud contracts and advice on policy and procedures. Paul also regularly acts as a mediator and arbitrator in disputes about information technology and intellectual property (i.e. for the World Intellectual Property Organization WIPO), CMAP, b.Mediation and CEPANI, to name but a few.

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Elien Van Malder

is a Partner and attorney-at-law at AKD's Brussels office who specialises in tax law. She focuses on advising clients on the tax aspects of transactions, M&A, financing arrangements, corporate (re)structurings and real estate deals.

She also assists clients with tax audits and represents them in administrative and judicial dispute resolution.

Elien works with a broad range of clients, including Belgian and international corporates, multinationals and investors, helping them tackle complex tax questions with clear, practical and business-minded solutions.

Clients value her ability to translate technical tax issues into structured, actionable advice that aligns legal, financial and strategic objectives. Her insights are further strengthened by her experience working in-house during

a secondment with a Belgian headquartered multinational, giving her a strong understanding of tax challenges from the perspective of the business.

In addition to her practice, Elien is academically active at Ghent University, where she teaches and contributes to research in tax law. She is a member of BATL and IFA Belgium and is frequently invited as a speaker and author within the tax community. Elien holds an LL.M in Tax Law from the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), a Master of Laws from Ghent University and has completed an executive programme at INSEAD.

Elien is ranked as Women in Tax Leader and as Rising Star in ITR World Tax.

Elien speaks Dutch, English and French.

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