

Banking & Finance

Domestic & cross-border finance expertise



Laga's Banking & Finance department consists of more than ten qualified lawyers, with a practice focus on all aspects of banking and financial law. Our team provides a full range of services in connection with banking and securities law and is involved in Belgian and cross border finance transactions as well as advisory work.

Our practice is recognised as one of the leading practices in Belgium by Chambers & Partners (Global and Europe editions), Legal 500 and IFLR. Our team acts for the different stakeholders in financing transactions, involving credit institutions, financial institutions, corporates and public (federal and regional) entities.

Areas of expertise

Our team advises clients in relation to a full spectrum of banking and financial products including:

- Syndicated lending
- Acquisition finance
- Asset finance
- Structured finance/securitisation (RMBS, CMBS, ABS, CDO/CLO, covered bonds)
- Debt capital markets
- Derivatives
- Project finance
- Financial services
- Bankruptcy and insolvency law, debt restructuring
- Funds (UCITS and non-UCITS)
- Real estate finance
- Banking litigation

Where appropriate to ensure a seamless and comprehensive high-quality service, the Laga team very regularly works closely and on a good friends basis with select local law firms that are prominent in their respective jurisdictions, as well as with financial, assurance and advisory, tax and consulting specialists. Through its proven experience with foreign law firms, the Laga Banking & Finance practice therefore provides a very credible choice for cross-border finance transactions.

Credentials

A selection of recently closed transactions

Laga's Banking & Finance team advised:

Barclays Bank PLC

on the refinancing of the existing debt position of a real estate company owning a shopping and residential complexes on various locations in Belgium.

Dexia Bank Belgium

on the structuring and documenting of covered bond transactions.

ING Bank

on the acquisition and financing of a logistics centre, on the restructuring of trade receivables programs and on the financing of a real estate development in the EU district.

AXA Bank Europe

on the structuring and documenting of one of the largest RMBS (residential mortgage backed securities) transactions ever on the Belgian market.

Crédit Agricole/Landbouwkrediet

on the structuring of a 700+ M EUR RMBS issue, the first one being structured with loans originated by Agricaïsse and Lanbokas, two members of the federation of credit institutions.

Credit Suisse

on various aspects involving its Belgian transactions.

Bank of China

on the establishment of a Belgian representation of the first Chinese bank in Belgium and on its Belgian financing transactions.

Lehman Brothers

on assisting with the acquisition of a non-performing consumer credit loan portfolio originated by the Belgian subsidiary of Banca Monte dei Paschi. This involves advisory work relating to the regulatory requirements for the transfer of a non-performing consumer credit portfolio.

Europese FinancieringsMaatschappij

on the refinancing of trade receivables of one of the largest beverage distribution groups in Belgium and the Netherlands as part of a refinancing programme sponsored by ING Bank.

Fortis Bank/RBS/Dexia Bank/KBC Bank/ ING Bank

on the restructuring of the leveraged Å250 million debt position of Deceuninck NV, a large Belgian listed corporate, by means of a newly created syndicated facility amongst the bank consortium, as well as joint intercreditor arrangements between the bank consortium and a consortium of US bondholders.

The lawyers at Laga have excellent interpersonal skills and are great communicators - I've seen them act as moderators between several parties and have been very impressed. (...) are singled out for commitment, hands-on approach and in-depth knowledge of financial matters.

**BRED Banque Populaire –
RMBS backed-MTN issuance**

on the structuring a finance transaction for NJR Invest, a Belgian subsidiary of BRED Banque Populaire.

RAC

on all real estate financing aspects involving both the development and the long term financing relating to one of the largest office and residential developments in Belgium.

Barco

on concluding a syndicated credit facility and on the setting up of financing schemes structured by the vendor to facilitate and accelerate the conversion of movie theatre screens to a digital format.

Renewable Energy

on the setting up of an asset finance structure for solar farms structured by Belgian investors in the Italian market.

Flemish Investment Company (PMV)

on advising about the crisis guarantee programme being managed by its wholly-owned subsidiary Participatie Maatschappij Vlaanderen (which is the existing prominent private equity and project finance related vehicle of the Flemish Government).

Fonds de l'Infrastructure Ferroviaire (FIF)

on the development and the financing and eventually the selling of land and real estate assets formerly belonging to the Belgian railway company.

Fine Arts Center Brussels

on the project financing of the redesign and redevelopment of approximately 25,000 m² of classified buildings.

The lawyers earn particular praise for their approachable and accommodating manner, with clients insisting that the team is “easily reachable - the lawyers are proactive and they always keep us informed”. Sources add: “it’s a really flexible service, and there when you need it”.

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Contacts

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For further information, visit our website at www.laga.be

A top legal practice in Belgium, Laga is a full service business law firm, highly recommended by the most authoritative legal guides. Laga comprises approximately 100 qualified lawyers, based in Brussels, Antwerp and Kortrijk. Laga offers expert advice in the fields of banking & finance, commercial, corporate/M&A, employment, IT/IP, public/administrative, insolvency and reorganisations, real estate, tax law and litigation. Where appropriate to ensure a seamless and comprehensive high-quality service, Laga lawyers work closely with financial, assurance and advisory, tax and consulting specialists, and with select EU and US law firms.

Laga provides thorough and practical solutions tailored to the needs of clients ranging from multinational companies, national large and medium-sized enterprises, and financial institutions, to government bodies.