

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 Diegem/Brussels, Antwerp, Namur and Kortrijk. Laga offers expert advice in the fields of banking & finance, commercial, corporate/M&A, employment, IT/IP, public/administrative, restructuring, real estate and tax law. 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 high net worth individuals, to government bodies.

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Private Equity



Laga has a strong specialised private equity practice which is part of the broader M&A group and consists of approximately 20 lawyers.

Areas of expertise

Our private equity team advises and assists clients on all transaction aspects including:

- legal and process structuring
- in depth analysis of business and legal environment
- drafting and negotiating letters of intent and process letters
- legal due diligence
- corporate documentation, incl. shareholders agreement and statutes
- finance documentation
- acquisition agreements
- management agreements
- notification with competition authorities
- post transaction support, including debt pushdown techniques

Credentials

A selection of recent transactions *

Arets Graphics

We advised the shareholders of Arets Graphics in the MBO arranged by Fortis Private Equity, including a substantial roll-over investment by them.

Secondary buyout of Aliplast

We advised senior management of Aliplast in the recently completed secondary buyout through which Aliplast was sold to a consortium consisting of Sagard and Ergon. Specifically we advised with the sale of management stakes up to approx. 15 to 20 % and their roll-over investment granting them a stake of approx. 25 %.

Fortis Private Equity

We acted for Fortis Private Equity in various transactions e.g. bid/acquisition of an OEM manufacturer in the automotive industry and a logistic service provider in frozen foods.

Bekaert Fencing

We assisted management in the LBO of Befafence and post closing advised Befafence on the complete corporate restructuring and debt push down post LBO, installing new security packages worldwide, various acquisitions, joint ventures and consortium agreements and corporate and employment related work.

Ecu Hold

We advised Ecu Hold, an Antwerp-based world leader in less-than-container load transport catering to 5,000 destinations worldwide in the buy out arranged by ABN AMRO and GIMV and of 30 % equity stake to the Indian conglomerate ALL CARGO.

Partners in Lighting

We assisted senior management in the sale to Philips and the recapitalisation transaction lead by CVC.

Big Bang Ventures II / ARKIV

We assisted this buyout fund with legal structuring, negotiations, fundraising round for their second fund focussing on early stage ICT investments.

SPANO

We advised senior management on the sale by the Vanden Avenue family and the MBO arranged by Ackermans van Haaren.

Q-Bakeries

We advised senior management in connection with a sale by KBC Private Equity and AVEVE and management buy out with three investors.

Partner profiles



Thomas Denys

Thomas Denys is a partner in our corporate and M&A department and specialises in mergers & acquisitions, private equity & capital market transactions, and joint ventures. Thomas started his career in the Corporate and M&A department of Allen & Overy Brussels in 1992 and became managing partner of a private equity fund in 1998. After several successful divestments he joined Laga as a partner in 2002. Thomas also has an extensive background in guiding growth companies, investors and management in M&A, private equity and capital market transactions, including leveraged buy-outs, corporate and financial restructurings and spin-offs. In particular, he acted as lead counsel in more than a dozen IPOs, SPOs and public tender offers for Belgian and foreign companies.

Thomas holds a Master of Law and a postgraduate degree in Finance from the Catholic University of Leuven, a Master in German Law from the University of Tübingen and DAAD, and a degree in Advanced Corporate Finance from the Amsterdam Institute of Finance, INSEAD. He was an Academic Assistant in Financial Law at the Law Faculty of the Catholic University of Leuven until 1998.

Thomas is on sabbatical from April 2007. Please address all queries to David Roelens.



David Roelens

David Roelens is a partner in our corporate M&A department and specialises in mergers & acquisitions, private equity, real estate and corporate finance transactions.

David joined Laga in April 2007. He gained extensive experience in the corporate M&A department of Clifford Chance Brussels where he started his career in 1996. He also spent significant time at the Clifford Chance New York office. Prior to joining Laga, he spent two years as senior legal counsel with The Belgian Post working on the privatisation.

David's practice focuses on cross-border and domestic M&A and private equity transactions, real estate transactions, corporate law, corporate finance and equity capital markets. He also advises clients in relation to general commercial law, insolvency and restructuring issues.

A graduate from the law faculty of the University of Leuven (KUL), University of Edinburgh and FUNDP Namur, he completed an L.L.M. at the New York University School of Law and obtained a postgraduate degree in finance from the KUL.

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Other Senior Members



David Ryckaert

David Ryckaert is a member of the business law team and focuses on corporate law and banking and financial law. Areas of expertise are mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, corporate restructuring as well as private equity and corporate market transactions, financial restructuring and spin-offs, IPOs, SPOs and public tender offers.

David holds a law Degree from the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL), 1999 and a Master of Business Administration from Solvay Business School, 2000.

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Stijn Van Loock

Stijn Van Loock is a lawyer in our corporate and M&A department. Stijn specialises in M&A and private equity transactions including advising on procedure to be followed and time-scale, drafting of required documents, assisting in the negotiation and drafting of share purchase agreements, shareholders' agreements, subscription agreements. He also has experience initiating legal proceedings and defending clients before the courts in commercial matters.

Stijn holds a Law degree from the University of Antwerp and is a member of the Brussels Bar.

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