

Banking & Finance

Domestic & cross-border finance expertise



Laga's Banking & Finance department consists of close to fifteen qualified lawyers, with a practice focus on all aspects of banking, project and structured finance, syndicate lending, debt capital markets and debt restructurings and financial law. Our team provides a full range of services in connection with banking and securities law and is involved in complex Belgian and cross border financing transactions as well as advisory work.

Our practice is recognised as one of the leading practices in complex 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, rating agencies 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 works closely 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 working experience with foreign law firms, the Laga Banking & Finance practice therefore provides a credible choice for cross-border financing transactions.

Credentials

A selection of recently closed transactions

Laga's Banking & Finance team advised:

Credit and financial institutions

KBC Bank

on a large number of large assignments including project finance transactions, most recently in connection with a project bond platform for the financing of large real estate and infrastructure projects such as the A11 motorway

Ineos/Innovene

as counsel for a large Bank consortium (with Citibank, UBS and HSBC as lead arrangers) on trade receivables / structuring the Belgian part of a trade receivable securitisation involving a number of Belgian sellers

ING Publifunds

on the structuring and implementation of a EUR 3Billion EMTN platform purported to attract long term financing from institutional investors (Belgian and other European pension funds) in order to provide long term financing to the Belgian public and semi-public sector

AXA Bank Europe

on the structuring and documenting of three RMBS (residential mortgage backed securities) transactions with an aggregate value of EUR 2.5 Billion

SocGen

on the Belgian issuance of a EUR 2 Billion pan-European structured product programme

Corporates

Barco

in connection with a EUR100M financial leasing programme in respect of digital cinema projector systems for a series of integrators in Europe

Bank Degroof

on the structuring and placing of a EUR 350M bond issue by Ores SCRL, a distribution network manager in the energy sector in Wallonia

PinguinLutosa

in relation to the EUR 200M refinancing and financing and refinancing of the acquisition of Lutosa and Scana Noliko

RAC (a joint venture of property developers Breevast and Immobel)

on various aspects of the in excess of 150,000 sqm "Belair" project in Brussels, including on the EUR 240M syndicated credit facility for the construction of the first phase of 76,000 sqm of offices

A food retailer specialised in frozen products

on a credit restructuring with a syndicate of banks in view of a judicial reorganisation in accordance with the Belgian Act on the continuity of enterprises

Mediterranean Bank

on the setting-up of its Belgian operations as a bank. This client is a bank wholly held by UK private equity fund Anacap and licensed by the Malta supervisory authorities

Laga provides 'consistently well grounded' opinions, and clients 'always get appropriate answers within a very reasonable timeframe'

Public entities

The three Belgian regional governments (The Flemish, Walloon and the Brussels Capital regions)

on the refinancing, reorganization and guarantee structures granted by each region with respect to the EUR350M securities of Gemeentelijke Holding NV / Holding Communal SA

AZ Maria Middelares Ghent (AZMM)

on the financing of its more than EUR 200M new hospital construction project in Ghent

Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen (PMV) - Gigant (Flemish Region Investment Company)

on the structuring and drafting of the regulatory framework of the "Gigant" guarantee scheme for corporates being financed for investment and working capital purposes within the framework of the existing EU guarantee rules

Rating agencies

Fitch

on the structurings of the first covered bonds transactions issued by Belfius Bank and KBC Bank in the Belgian market in 2012

DBRS

on the structuring of several RMBS securitization transactions for ING Belgium and Belfius in 2011 and 2012

The Banking and Finance Practice is well reputed for its domestic and cross-border finance expertise with particular skill in banking, structured finance (securitisation), securities, project finance and financial services

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.