

ALLEN & OVERY

Belgium



Covering our clients' four core needs

The majority of our work is complex, strategic and at the forefront of the market. As a result, we offer our clients market-leading and trend-setting services (advisory, litigation and transactional services) to cover their four core needs:



Allen & Overy in Belgium

We think and work with our clients. Our lawyers are recognised for their commercial awareness, for their concise, practical advice and for providing clear recommendations.

Commitment to cover our clients' four core needs

We partner with our clients on a long-term basis. In today's world, legal risk management is an integral part of running a business, going well beyond the strict confines of a particular transaction. We help our clients mitigate risks and navigate the pitfalls, both on-deal and off-deal. We are universally recognised market leaders for the full range of legal services covering our clients' four core needs:

- Developing
- Funding
- Managing risks and reputation
- Defending

Global reach, local depth

Our global span of 40 offices with approximately 5,650 people, including 580 partners, covers established and emerging economies in the West and East. What we share is deep-seated local knowledge, the drive to exceed client expectations and throughout our international network, a spirit of collaboration. Our local clients benefit from our global reach and scalability. In parallel, international clients come to us for our knowledge of the 'ins' and 'outs' of doing business in Belgium.

Cutting-edge experience and knowledge

Our clients appreciate our extensive experience and in-depth sector focus, which leads to a natural understanding of their industry and background. We offer decades of experience, knowledge and an unrivalled network. All this, plus an agile organisation, allows us to identify emerging trends and to quickly offer our clients innovative solutions and strategies (eg Fintech, digital disruption, geopolitical crises, ...).

Full-service legal assistance

We provide strategic, full-service legal assistance at the highest level to corporations, financial institutions, private equity firms and public entities. Clients benefit from our seamless integration across legal practice areas and sectors and into our international network, ensuring the sharing of knowledge, information, technology systems, processes and skills. They appreciate the ability of our experts to join forces to get deals done and to find solutions in highly complex cases.

Best people on board

Our people are our strongest and most important asset. We pride ourselves on recruiting only the very best lawyers and support professionals, who receive continuous training.

Develop

Structuring the organisation (through investment/divestment) and finding the best ways to grow the business in a changing world and to develop its strategic assets (people, IT, real estate, patents, data ...) certainly represents one of our clients' major challenges.

With an unrivalled reputation for excellence, Allen & Overy (Belgium) LLP drives the most complex deals, as well as strategic projects that transform and shape businesses. Creative, pragmatic, providing a clear steer where needed and leveraging on our sector knowledge, we define market practice.

From commercial contracts to multi-billion mergers, we tailor our approach according to our clients' strategic needs. Our clients benefit from our access to experts in all relevant legal practices areas and jurisdictions, including regulatory, competition, M&A, finance, IP/IT, employment, environment, real estate and tax. We work faster, more efficiently and simply better.

We support our clients in achieving their growth strategies including:

Public and private M&A

Joint ventures

Outsourcing transactions

Corporate reorganisations

Private and public sector contracts

Commercial contracts
(services, distribution, franchising, ...)

Projects, including PPP

Employment and benefits

Technology (digitalisation, internet of things, big data, ...)

IP and licensing agreements

Tax planning

Real estate transactions and development

Antitrust and competition

Fund

Appropriately funding a company/venture by striking the correct balance between multiple funding options and well-thought out choices of whether to tap into the private or public markets now or in the future, are some of the key core challenges faced by our clients.

As the recognised business-driven law firm and leader in banking & capital markets in Belgium, A&O advises on all major domestic, cross-border and complex funding transactions. Our clients benefit from our deep understanding of the full spectrum of funding instruments, from debt finance to equity capital markets, including project and real estate finance.

Through our global network and our excellent relationships with all players and the regulators, we are at the cutting edge of financial law and market practice. Our ability to find innovative, pragmatic and efficient solutions in complex cases is what sets us apart.

Our offering includes advising on:

Equity:

IPOs

Rights issues

Debt:

General lending

Debt capital market

Leveraged/Acquisition finance

Structured finance

Trade, commodity & export finance

Project finance

Restructuring

Real estate finance



Manage risks and reputation

As companies' reputations are increasingly dependent on their ability to comply with the law and to react to public opinion, it is vital to find strategies to anticipate and proactively adopt the best processes and tools to mitigate those risks and prevent crises.

With in-depth knowledge of our clients' business environments, A&O anticipates their changing needs, providing creative and robust solutions in the field of compliance and corporate governance, as well as board-level advice on reputational risks. Our clients benefit from our technical ability, solution-driven attitude and global insights of the latest market practices and developments.

Thanks to our international presence, we are able to help our clients anticipate the impact of foreign regulations on their businesses eg corruption, sanctions, extra territorial effect of U.S. laws.... With a thorough understanding of how Belgian and worldwide regulators work, we are able to identify risks and opportunities in new laws and regulations. We work closely with our global and national clients on implementing procedures and change management.

Our team advises our clients on all areas of:

Compliance with law and best practices
(competition, anti-bribery, sanctions, employment,
human rights, environment, ...)

Corporate governance

Insurance (D&O, product liability insurance, ...)

Regulated sectors and compliance

Public sector and procurement compliance

Tax risk management

IP and brand protection

Data protection and cybersecurity



Defend

Defending our clients starts with avoiding conflicts and finding alternative solutions. But, when our clients are woken up at night to be told of a huge investigation or a security attack or when they have had sleepless nights over an unresolved dispute, we are ready to provide strategic advice and a robust defence so that they can sleep better and focus on doing business.

Recent failures in corporate governance and monitoring have also resulted in regulators taking more assertive and proactive approaches. As a result, it is essential to have access to the right level of advice and expertise.

We defend our clients across the board (including in corporate, commercial and financial, employment, IP/IT, antitrust, environment, tax, real estate, public and criminal matters), and regularly handle cross-border disputes.

Our clients benefit from our intimate knowledge of the markets, its courts and its regulators as well as from our global experience of transactions, governance, financial products and other areas that are often the subject of litigation. Based on a true understanding of business issues we take an engaged, pragmatic and where necessary, assertive approach.

We provide strategic advice and a realistic assessment of each case to help our clients avoid and resolve disputes in and out of court.

We support our clients when dealing with disputes:

Pre-litigation assistance, avoiding and managing conflicts

Domestic and international litigation

Domestic and international arbitration

Class actions and collective settlement proceedings

Public law litigation and administrative review

Criminal proceedings

We support our clients when dealing with the regulators:

Sector-focussed regulatory bodies
(VREG, CREG, FSMA, FAMHP, ...)

Cross-sector regulatory bodies
(Belgian and European competition authorities, ...)

Special Tax Inspection

Meeting our partners and counsel



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Our pro bono commitment

Our firm is passionate about helping others, which is why Allen & Overy's pro bono and community investment programme uses the skills of both our lawyers and staff to find solutions to some of society's most pressing issues. We feel that it is a strategic priority that our people use their expertise to benefit not just our clients, but also the community around us.

A&O organises its pro bono volunteering (both legal and non-legal) around access to justice, education and employment, assisting on a wide variety of initiatives around the globe that are mostly focused on our local offices and their respective cultures and priorities.

At a global level, A&O has selected **Street Child** as its global charity partner as of 2021. It targets children in low-resource environments and emergencies, where they are least likely to be safe, in school and learning. Their mission is to make a meaningful, material contribution to increase safety, access to schooling and learning for a million children. It also pledges to make multiplier investments in the capacities and contributions of its partners to reach millions more marginalised children. Over the last 15 years, A&O has also provided **Missing Children Europe** (federation for missing and sexually exploited children) and **Child Focus** with legal advice and support on a large number of projects.

At local level, Allen & Overy Belgium has led the firm's partnership with **SOS Children's Villages** (an organisation that offers homes to orphaned or abandoned children) providing them with legal support, financial aid and voluntary work. Since 2014, Allen & Overy Belgium has started supporting **ToekomstATELIERdelAvenir**, a school that provides supplementary education to children from underprivileged neighbourhoods in Brussels. Allen & Overy Belgium is also partnering with the Jane Goodall Institute Belgium (the Belgian branch of the global community conservation organisation that focuses on protecting chimpanzees and inspiring communities across the world to take action for people, animals and the natural world we all share) and has recently advised them on a strategic partnership with Luminus to boost the Institute's efforts with respect to reforestation. Allen & Overy Belgium also supports its lawyers and staff in pro bono projects, prioritising those with which they have a personal connection.



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Global presence

Allen & Overy is an international legal practice with approximately 5,800 people, including some 590 partners, working in more than 40 offices worldwide. A current list of Allen & Overy offices is available at www.allenoverly.com/global_coverage.

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The term partner is used to refer to a member of Allen & Overy LLP or an employee or consultant with equivalent standing and qualifications or an individual with equivalent status in one of Allen & Overy LLP's affiliated undertakings. A list of the members of Allen & Overy LLP and of the non-members who are designated as partners is open to inspection at our registered office at One Bishops Square, London E1 6AD.