

BRUSSELS

AT A GLANCE

From our office located close to the European Commission and other EU institutions, we offer clients extensive EU competition, regulatory and trade advice, as well as Belgian corporate and commercial services. The office supports the Firm's antitrust & competition and corporate advisory practices to service our global client base.

Experience

EU Competition: Our EU competition lawyers provide sophisticated competition advice before the European Commission and Courts, as well as before national authorities. We have experience in counselling clients on the whole spectrum of competition issues, as well as a deep understanding of the industries in which they operate. These include life sciences, medical devices and pharmaceuticals, energy, chemicals, energy, finance, food and beverage, manufacturing, sports and media, technology and transport.

International Trade: Our EU trade team counsels exporters, complainants and importers in EU anti-dumping investigations, and advise international investors on customs, export controls and trade related matters, notably origin, preferential tariffs and anti-circumvention measures. Together with our colleagues in the United States, we provide international investors, producers and traders with fully integrated WTO, trade and customs services.

EU Regulatory: Our EU regulatory lawyers are uniquely positioned to offer co-ordinated regulatory advice on international and cross-border issues to clients operating in a diverse range of industries. The Brussels practice is ranked consistently by the leading legal directories, particularly in the fields of energy, environment, food and drugs, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, and transport.

Corporate & Commercial: Our corporate and commercial team advises Belgian and international corporations on a wide range of corporate, financial, commercial and tax matters. We assist clients in national and multinational acquisitions and joint ventures, and have extensive experience in drafting national and international commercial and distribution agreements in multiple EU jurisdictions.

Hot Topics

Our lawyers respond to key regulatory developments affecting multinational businesses operating in the European Union:

- The European Commission's new settlement procedure for antitrust cases
- Leniency applications and the negotiations of commitments in antitrust cases
- The UK Office of Fair Trading's guidance on director disqualification orders
- The European Commission guidelines on the assessment of non-horizontal mergers
- Effective analysis of EU and national merger notification requirements

Scope of Services

- Anti-dumping proceedings
- Cartel investigations
- Commercial transactions
- Competition law compliance
- Complaints, oppositions & contentious proceedings
- Corporate advice
- EU chemicals – REACH
- EU competition
- EU customs law services
- EU regulatory
- International trade
- Merger notification & review
- Public procurement
- State aid
- WTO advice

Our Team

10+ lawyers

Location

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International Reach

The Brussels office provides a central focus for our international competition, trade and regulatory services. We have a strong European presence and an excellent network of international contacts which we have built up over the years. This, together with our offices in the United States, allows us to supply a comprehensive multijurisdictional service.

Recent Engagements

Recent engagements include the following:

- Representation of a global company specialising in the production of roof windows in an Article 82 EC investigation before the European Commission. The Commission closed its case against the company in a record-short timeframe, finding there to be no competition law infringements
- Representation of a multinational chemicals company in European Commission proceedings in the hydrogen peroxide case, resulting in the total length of the infringement being reduced very significantly. Subsequent representation in a court challenge on the issue of attribution of liability to the parent company for the activities of an alleged cartel member
- Representation of one of the parties in a landmark antitrust case in which the European Commission imposed its first set of fines under the new settlement procedure. McDermott secured a 10 per cent reduction in the fine and further substantial savings for the client as a result of discussions with the Commission regarding the fining methodology originally proposed
- Representation of a leading international manufacturer and distributor of packaging products in the European Union, in anti-dumping proceedings before the European Commission against imports of plastic bags from Malaysia, Thailand and China
- Representation of an importer of ring binder mechanisms, in an anti-circumvention investigation opened by the European Commission's Trade Directorate
- Defence of the largest Malaysian exporter of polyester staple fibre in the European Commission's anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of polyester staple fibre originating in Malaysia and Taiwan

Awards & Recognition

Our Brussels practice is globally recognised:

- "The quality of the individual team members at McDermott Will & Emery/Stanbrook LLP is impeccable both in terms of knowledge about the law and the knowledge about the decision making processes in DG Competition" – *Legal 500 EMEA 2010*
- "excellent technical understanding of the subject [International Trade/WTO] and considerable experience of the Court of First Instance." – *Chambers Global 2010*
- "The advice rendered is always of very high quality, concise and helpful." – *Chambers Global 2010*
- "Great coverage and resources – it is able to respond quickly in different languages and give advice on laws in different countries." – *Chambers Global 2009*
- "Very practical advice, with good experience and skills in dealing with EU institutions." – *Legal 500 EMEA 2009*

Our Firm

McDermott Will & Emery is a leading international law firm with a diversified business practice. We represent a wide range of commercial, industrial and financial enterprises, both publicly and privately held. Our clientele include some of the world's largest corporations, small and medium-sized businesses, and individuals.

Currently numbering 1,000 lawyers, we have offices in Boston, Brussels, Chicago, Düsseldorf, Houston, London, Los Angeles, Miami, Milan, Munich, New York, Orange County, Rome, San Diego, Silicon Valley and Washington, D.C. McDermott Will & Emery has a strategic alliance with MWE China Law Offices (Shanghai).