



## Liedekerke promotes arbitration specialist Dr. Gabriele Ruscalla and litigation expert Michaël Houbben to Counsel

Liedekerke is delighted to announce the promotion of **Michaël Houbben** and **Dr. Gabriele Ruscalla** to Counsel.

**Arnaud Nuyts**, Head of the International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Practice, comments:

*"These appointments reflect both Gabriele and Michaël's unique legal expertise and outstanding contribution, their continuous commitment to solving our clients' challenges, and demonstrate the firm's focus on rewarding world-class dedicated lawyers. Michaël and Gabriele are loyal members of Liedekerke and I therefore am very proud of this achievement and look forward to their continued contribution to our success."*

**Alexandre Emond and Etienne Kairis**, Co-Managing Partners of the firm, add: *"With these promotions, Liedekerke is acknowledging high motivation, several years of hard work and dedication to our clients, colleagues and to the firm. Gabriele and Michaël have demonstrated exceptional legal abilities and share the firm's commitment to achieve the highest standard of client service."*

With more than a decade of experience in international arbitration, **Dr. Gabriele Ruscalla** has broad experience in high-value, complex disputes under most arbitral institutions (e.g. ICC, LCIA, SIAC, SCA, UNCITRAL, ICSID, SCC), numerous governing laws (e.g. the laws of France, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Algeria, international law), and arbitral seats. He has represented corporate clients, States and state entities in both international commercial and investor-State arbitrations, and has acquired specific expertise in construction, energy, oil & gas, and distribution matters as well as investment protection and public international law.

Gabriele also acts as counsel in litigation proceedings before French courts in matters dealing with the setting aside or recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards.

Before joining Liedekerke, Gabriele was Counsel at the Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, where he managed a team handling hundreds of arbitrations in connection with European jurisdictions.

Gabriele previously held a position as Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Dispute Resolution and Public International Law of the Max Planck Institute for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law. Earlier on in his career, he worked as an associate in the International Arbitration Group of a global law firm in Paris, for almost three years.

Gabriele is Adjunct Professor of Business and Human Rights at IE Law School (Madrid) and teaches International Commercial and Investment Arbitration as Lecturer at HEAD Law School (Paris) and at the Catholic University of Lille (Paris Campus). He frequently publishes articles and notes on, and regularly speaks at conferences and seminars about international arbitration-related subjects. He is a member of the Paris Bar and registered as Foreign Lawyer at the Brussels Bar.

A member of Liedekerke since almost ten years, **Michaël Houbben** is a litigation and dispute resolution lawyer, working mainly on civil, commercial and corporate matters.

A significant part of Michaël's activities involves the management and resolution of disputes, before courts and tribunals or arbitration bodies when applicable, for private clients as well as for Belgian and international companies of various sectors (real estate, construction, mining, energy, etc.), particularly in commercial and corporate matters. He has developed specific skills to deal with assessment of queries and treatment of disputes related to the interpretation, performance and termination of contracts such as purchase agreements, distribution agreements, lease agreements, share purchase agreements, etc.).

Michaël also acts as counsel in litigation proceedings before Belgian courts in matters dealing with the setting aside or recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards.

In addition, Michaël frequently assists clients in alternative dispute resolution processes, such as mediation.



Furthermore, through his collaboration with John Kirkpatrick and then Simone Nudelholc, both former lawyers at the Court of cassation, Michaël has acquired a particular expertise in handling cassation cases in civil, commercial and tax matters. He has successfully completed the four-year course “professional training in cassation techniques and procedures” organized by the Bar Association of the Court of Cassation.

### **About Liedekerke**

Founded in 1965 by lawyers committed to legal excellence, Liedekerke is an independent law firm recognised for its leadership and expertise and with an international reputation built upon an unchallenged expertise.

A premium Belgian business law firm for nearly 60 years with offices in Brussels, London, Kinshasa and Kigali, our firm is dedicated to providing a world-class service by consistently delivering the finest assistance and guidance.

The firm has a strong advisory practice based on sector expertise and an in-depth knowledge of Belgian and European law. As an essential complement to its advisory activities, it represents clients in complex litigation before national, European and international courts, both judicial and arbitral, the Court of Cassation, the Council of State and the Belgian Constitutional Courts.

Each of our practice areas is highly regarded with lawyers recognised for their utter commitment to our clients' interests. As a client you can rely on creative and multidisciplinary teams which can advise on all types of matters in Belgium and also assist with cross-border projects, thanks to our solid international service capabilities and relationships with leading law firms across the world, Liedekerke is recognized for its ability to quickly mobilize competent, flexible and multidisciplinary teams.

Our strategy is supported by an understanding of our clients' values and a commitment to meeting their needs. We make significant investments to guarantee that clients profit from our extensive expertise and industry insights, have access to the ideal team for the work, and that we use the proper methods and cutting-edge technologies to each circumstance.

Our clients, active in a broad range of industries, including financial services and financial institutions, energy, real estate and construction, environment, TMT, retail, consumer goods and trade, public authorities and government agencies, automotive, transport, infrastructure and logistics, funds and asset management amongst others rely on us to consistently go above and beyond their expectations. We offer them the finest legal guidance possible, combining the firm's solid international capability with strong local roots and in-depth regional knowledge.

With over 130 lawyers including 29 partners, our goal is not to be the largest firm but to be the firm of choice for clients who require trusted advice and innovative and business-aware legal solutions.

### **Contact :**

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