



Jeroen Smets

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Jeroen Smets is a partner at the firm. He concentrates his practice on corporate, mergers and acquisitions, private equity, structured and leveraged finance matters with a particular emphasis on management buy outs and acquisition finance.

Jeroen advises Belgian and foreign corporates and financial institutions on a wide range of domestic and cross-border corporate transactions including mergers and acquisitions, capital markets work, private equity and venture capital transactions as well as general corporate advisory work. He focuses in banking and finance related transactions including real estate and acquisition finance and structured finance, senior and mezzanine lending, security packages, and provides advice on regulatory and general banking law. He has extensive experience with coordination of cross-border transactions and the negotiation and structuring of complex leveraged buy-outs and both share- and asset deals and has acted on some of the landmark private equity deals in Belgium, including the first ever public to private transaction in the market. His client base is diverse and encompasses Belgian companies, multi-national corporations, long-established private companies and new ventures and Belgian and foreign financial institutions.

Jeroen has extensive international experience and has lived and worked in Brussels, Moscow and New York.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Jeroen was head of the corporate and finance department at another international firm in Brussels.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 EMEA* as a Recommended Lawyer for Commercial, corporate and M&A in Belgium, 2024

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member of the Brussels Bar

- Member of De Warande
- Member of ELSA Law Society

EDUCATION

- LL.M., University College London, 1997
- D.E.S.S., University of Brussels, 1995
- Law Degree, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, 1993
- Law Degree, Universidad de Deusto, 1993

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Brussels

LANGUAGES

- Dutch
- English
- French
- German
- Spanish

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 1 May 2020, Modernization of Evidence Rules in the New Belgian Civil Code
- 27 April 2020, COVID-19: Electronic Conclusion of Contracts and E-Signatures in Belgium
- 15 April 2020, An Overview of the Legal Changes in the Belgian Non-Profit Sector: The (International) Non-Profit Organization as an Enterprise
- 1 April 2020, COVID-19: Force Majeure and Hardship in Belgian B2B Contracts
- 31 March 2020, COVID-19: European Business Continuity While Mitigating Data Protection and Security Challenges From a Distance
- 19 March 2020, COVID-19: Can Directors' and Shareholders' Meetings Be Held Remotely in Belgium?
- 20 January 2020, New Rules for B2B Contracts: Are Your Business Contracts Future Proof?
- 1 March 2016, European Insolvency and Enforcement Country Guide

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Jeroen has written on corporate and finance issues, including “Corporate Interest under Belgian law – a practical approach”, *Bank- en Financieel recht / Droit Bancaire et Financier*, Larcier, Brussels, 2008, “Taalgebruik in het bedrijfsleven”, *Maklu*, 2010.

NEWS & EVENTS

- 25 January 2022, K&L Gates Advises Soho Square Capital LLP on Investment and Partnership with Oliver James
- August 2020, K&L Gates Lawyers Provide Insights on Impact of COVID-19 Across Various Industries

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Corporate and Acquisition Finance
- Corporate Governance
- Corporate Sustainability
- Debt Capital Markets
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Power
- Private Equity Transactions
- Real Estate Finance
- Restructuring and Insolvency
- Securitization and Structured Finance

INDUSTRIES

- Artificial Intelligence
- Consumer Products
- Financial Services
- Private Equity
- Resort, Hospitality, and Leisure
- Technology