

## GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE FIRM

*“Success is a choice”*

**Billiet & Co Lawyers**

Avenue Louise 146 B-1050 Brussels

Tel: +(32) 2 643 33 01

Fax: +(32) 2 646 24 31

[info@billiet-co.be](mailto:info@billiet-co.be)

[www.billiet-co.be](http://www.billiet-co.be)

## About us

Billiet & Co is a reputed business law firm with over 40 years of experience. We are particularly known for thorough research and customized assistance. Our team of experts will listen to your needs and is ready to serve you.

Our commercial advisory & contracts department is particularly specialised in:

- [Commercial Advisory & Contracts](#)
- [Conflict \(Re\)solution](#)
- [Asset Recovery, Insolvency & \(Re\)structuring](#)
- [EU Regulatory & Competition Law](#)

Why clients choose us:

- [Business focus](#): We adopt a hands on and customized approach that maximises business sense
- [Client-driven](#): Through diagnosis we identify, together with the client, which legal path would best reflect the client's interests.
- [Outstanding reputation](#): We have won numerous legal awards for excellence and outstanding services.
- [Interdisciplinary](#): We closely work together with specialist accountants, tax advisors and other experts.
- [International reach](#): We operate through a carefully selected network of foreign partners in over 50 jurisdictions.

We are at the forefront of current and future legal practices and are committed to using our knowledge and experience to always deliver excellent services.

Our team works in English, Dutch, French, Russian, German, Spanish, Greek, Ukrainian, and Romanian.

## Commercial Advisory & Contracts

Our firm provides A to Z services in **Belgian commercial & corporate law**. We frequently assist in the creation of new businesses, due diligence investigations, compliance matters, capital and share transactions, terms & conditions, joint venture agreements, etc.

The firm is particularly known for its ability to prepare and review complex agreements. Recently, we assisted our clients in sectors such as hospitality, import-export, transport, retail, lobbying, amongst others.

We are at the forefront in the Belgian **distribution** sector, assisting in the creation and improvement of franchise, commercial agency and other distribution networks. We have helped to shape distribution practices in sectors such as automobile, cosmetics, real estate, transport, logistics and foodstuff, and maintain a strong representation within the Belgian Franchise Federation.

## Conflict (Re)solution

Our firm is known for its particular ability to conduct a **conflict diagnosis** that allows to identify the best strategy and way to address any given conflict situation, be it through litigation, arbitration, mediation, conciliation, dispute review boards, mini-trial, expert determination, early case evaluation, confidential listening, partnering, collaborative law, etc.

We have intervened in numerous **complex litigation** cases and are particularly known to have guided our clients to positive outcomes through difficult procedural challenges, especially in relation to punitive damages cases, asset recovery matters, execution orders, etc.

Our team includes worldwide reputed arbitration specialists. We deal with international (usually complex) **commercial and investment arbitration** multi-million € cases. Our team possesses solid experience with virtually all well-known arbitration rules (UNICTRAL, LCIA, SCC, ICC, CEPANI, etc.) and also assists clients in arbitration-related court proceedings such as **annulment and exequatur** proceedings.

Our team also includes internationally well-known mediators that are specialised in cross-border **commercial mediation** cases that often involve significant cultural barriers.

## Asset Recovery, Insolvency & (Re)structuring

Through an international network of over 100 experts located in more than 50 jurisdictions, we assist our clients in **complex asset recovery** matters that involve stubborn debtors. Recent experiences include (European) payment order procedures, director liabilities, fraudulent bankruptcies, complex freezing and execution orders, enforcement actions that involve State interests, etc.

Our team of bankruptcy liquidators is frequently appointed in the **liquidation and winding up** of companies. This often coincides with the divestment of business activities. Recent experiences include advising clients in sectors such as telecommunication operations, trade-exports companies, constructions, transport, publicity agencies, media, etc.

Our team also provides tailor-made assistance in relation to the **continuity of undertakings**. Our interdisciplinary team is well placed to help clients restore successful business operations. Recent experiences include assisting clients in sectors such as construction, debt restructuring, telecom, fast-food, green energy, logistics, innovative technologies, etc.

### **EU Regulatory & Competition law**

Our team often intervenes in **antitrust, dominance abuses and EU compliance** matters. Over the years, the practice has focused particularly on the energy, telecoms/media, air transport and pharmaceutical sectors.

Members of our team have been at the forefront of **EU State aid** law developments for almost 30 years and have been advising governments and corporates on the application of EU State aid rules focusing on the shipbuilding, air transport, telecoms/media, terminals/ports, energy and banking/financial institutions sectors. They participated in several landmark State aids cases both before the European Commission and the European Courts in Luxembourg representing alleged recipients of State aid, complainants, awarding authorities, governments and public bodies. Members of our team also frequently assist clients during recovery proceedings and litigation at the national level. They have also advised governments and governmental agencies in structuring their State aid schemes in compliance with EU State aid rules.

We regularly advise and represent merging parties or third interested parties in **merger control** clearance proceedings before the European Commission and national competition authorities. We frequently negotiate commitments with the regulators as a condition for the approval of mergers or acquisitions. We often work with experienced economists and monitoring trustees to ensure compliance with agreed commitments.

## Recognition of our work

Our level of specialisation and client focus has resulted in numerous prizes and awards within our fields of expertise.

A selection of recent prizes and awards in the field of **Commercial Advisory & Contracts**:

- The firm was elected “Best Commercial Law Firm – Belgium” (2015 Legal Awards, Acquisition International);
- The firm was elected “Franchise Law – Law Firm of the Year 2014” (Corporate Intl Magazine Global Award);
- The firm was elected “Franchise Law Firm of the Year in Belgium 2014” (Global Law Experts – GLE).

A selection of recent prizes and awards in the field of **Conflict (Re)solution**:

- The firm was elected “Belgium’s Leading Adviser in Dispute Resolution” (AI Magazine’s annual Leading Adviser of the Year Awards 2017);
- Philippe Billiet was elected as “Arbitrator of the Year – Belgium” (Corporate Insider Legal Awards 2017);
- Philippe Billiet was elected as “Arbitration Lawyer of the Year in Belgium” (Global 100 – 2017);
- The firm was elected “Most Outstanding in International Arbitration Law - Belgium” (2017 M&A Corporate LiveWire awards);
- The firm was elected “Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in Belgium” (2017 Corporate Intl Global Awards - Editors' Choice category);
- The firm was elected “Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year” (2016 Corporate Intl Magazine Global Award);
- Philippe Billiet was elected “International Arbitrator of the Year – Belgium” (2016 AI Legal Awards);
- The firm was elected “Arbitration Law Firm of the Year – Belgium” (2015 Corporate LiveWire Awards);
- The firm was elected “Best Alternative Dispute Resolution Law Firm - Belgium” (2015 M&A Awards)
- The firm was elected “Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year – Belgium” (GLE 2015 Annual Awards);
- Philippe Billiet was elected “Cross-Border Disputes Lawyer of the Year – Belgium” (2015 Corporate LiveWire Awards);
- The firm was elected “Alternative Dispute Resolutions firm of the Year – Belgium” (2015 Corporate LiveWire Awards);
- The firm was elected “Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year 2015” (Corporate Intl Magazine Legal Award);
- The firm was elected “Best in International Arbitration – Belgium 2014” (Acquisition International Legal Awards);
- The firm was elected “Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in Belgium 2014” (Global Law Experts – GLE);
- The firm was elected “Client Choice – Dispute Resolution Law Award in Belgium 2014” (Legal Finest 200 Awards).

A selection of recent prizes and awards in the field of **EU Regulatory & Competition Law**:

- The firm was elected “Boutique Law Firm of 2014 – Belgium” (The M&A Awards);
- Dr. Konstantinos Adamantopoulos has been consistently recommended in several law directories, including Chambers and The Legal 500, for International Trade, Competition and European Law practice. He is also mentioned among the 'Best of the Best' in International Trade law by Expert Guides.



“Franchise Law - Law Firm of the Year in Belgium”  
(2014 Corporate Intl Magazine Global Award)



## MAIN CONTACTS



**Johan Billiet**  
[info@billiet-co.be](mailto:info@billiet-co.be)

Johan is the founder of Billiet & Co and has over 40 years of experience in complex litigation, arbitration and Belgian commercial law at the Brussels Bar. He is admitted with the Belgian Supreme Court (*Cour de Cassation*) for criminal cases. He is the Chairman of the International Arbitration Court under the European Arbitration Chamber, the founder of the Association for International Arbitration, and the author of numerous books and articles. He lectures investment arbitration, dispute resolution and comparative arbitration at the Faculty of Law and Criminology of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. He obtained a masters in maritime law at Antwerp University and previously lectured financial law and corporate restructuring at EHSAL. He is a bankruptcy liquidator and a deputy judge. Johan works in French, English and Dutch.



**Dr. Dilyara Nigmatullina**  
[dilyara.nigmatullina@billiet-co.be](mailto:dilyara.nigmatullina@billiet-co.be)

Dilyara is an arbitration and mediation consultant. She obtained an LL.M. in International Commercial Arbitration Law from Stockholm University and a PhD degree in international dispute resolution from the University of Western Australia. She specialises in international dispute resolution and has experience acting as an arbitrator and mediator. Dilyara also holds a position of a Supernumerary Academic Staff at the Law Faculty of the University of Antwerp. She works in Russian, English, Dutch and Spanish.



**Dr. Konstantinos Adamantopoulos**  
[konstantinos.adamantopoulos@billiet-co.be](mailto:konstantinos.adamantopoulos@billiet-co.be)

Konstantinos is an Attorney at Law and member of both the Brussels and Athens Bars. He specialises in EU competition, EU regulatory, trade, State aid and has extensive experience in litigation, representing governments and corporate entities before the European Commission, the Court of Justice and the General Court of the European Union, as well as in dispute settlement proceedings before WTO institutions. He has been the managing partner of major UK law firms and works in German, French, Greek and English.



**Maarten Bentein**

[maarten.bentein@billiet-co.be](mailto:maarten.bentein@billiet-co.be)

Maarten is an Attorney at Law and member of the Brussels bar. His areas of expertise include litigation, commercial insolvency law, bankruptcies and alternative dispute resolution. He provides legal services for expats and international companies in Belgium and has a special interest in the Spanish market. Maarten is a bankruptcy liquidator and is frequently appointed as an arbitrator in commercial disputes. He works in Dutch, English, French and Spanish.



**Philippe Billiet**

[philippe.billiet@billiet-co.be](mailto:philippe.billiet@billiet-co.be)

Philippe is an Attorney at Law and member of the Brussels Bar. He obtained his LL.M. in International Economic Law at the University of Warwick and lectures conflict resolution tools and strategies at Brussels VUB University. Philippe was one of the first mediators to obtain the EMTPJ (European Mediation Training for Practitioners of Justice) certification and frequently intervenes in matters that have a diplomatic dimension. He is vice-president of the *chambre d'arbitrage d'experts*, is a registered arbitrator with numerous institutions worldwide and is member of the advisory board to the Brussels Diplomatic Academy. He works in Dutch, French, English, speaks German and has notions of Polish.



**Vladimir Lincautan**

[vladimir.lincautan@billiet-co.be](mailto:vladimir.lincautan@billiet-co.be)

Vladimir is an Attorney at Law and member of the Brussels Bar. He frequently intervenes in complex corporate and international trade transactions and has extensive experience in handling high-value, complex, multi-party, multi-jurisdictional disputes in CIS and EU jurisdictions. He works in Dutch, French, English, Russian, Ukrainian and Romanian.