



Annabelle Lepièce

Attorney at law
Partner

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Admitted to the Bar in 1997

Languages: French, English, Dutch

Practice areas

Competition & European Union, Insolvency & Restructuring, Infrastructure & Project Finance

Education

- Université Libre de Bruxelles, ULB (Law Degree, 1996)
- University of Aberdeen (Certificate in Legal Studies, 1996)
- Université Libre de Bruxelles, ULB (Postgraduate in European Law, 1997)
- University of Cambridge (Certificate of English Legal Methods, 1997)
- University of Edinburgh and British Council (European Young Lawyers Scheme, 2001)

Why recommended

Annabelle specialises in European law, mainly Competition law (state aid, mergers and anti-trust rules) and EU freedoms (services, establishment and capital). She provides legal advice, lodges notifications and complaints before the European Commission and the Belgian Competition Council as well as procedures before the EU Court of justice.

She is particularly active in the following sectors: air transport and airports, energy, public investments (capital injections, guarantees, loans, aid schemes, etc.) and public service missions (financing of activities and infrastructure), the banking sector and the steel industry.

Relevant experience

- Drafting of aid schemes (investment aids, regional aids, de minimis aids, etc.) and notification of aid schemes (intermodal transport, RDI) and individual public interventions (guarantees, capital injections, restructuring aids) to the European Commission
- Representation of public authorities in proceedings relating to illegal aids at both the European and national level and before the EU Court of justice (airport sector, financing of hospitals, glass sector, steel industry)

Relevant publications

- *"The Leipzig Airport judgment: The application of EU state aid rules to the financing of airport infrastructure"*, Journal of Airport Management, to be published in October 2011.
- *"Incentives and Aids for the development of routes under EU law : Practical guide for airports and airlines"*, Journal of Airport Management, January 2011.
- *"Le financement des services publics: les contraintes européennes"* dans Les pouvoirs publics dans un monde en mutation, Kluwer, 2010, p. 84.
- *"Les aides d'Etat et les entreprises en difficulté"* dans Les pouvoirs publics dans un monde en mutation, Kluwer, 2010, p. 106.

- *"EU Directive on Airport Charges", in Liber Amicorum Or Wassenbergh, Journaal LuchtRecht, November 2009.*
- *"A Concorrência e a Tributação no direito europeu", in collaboration with J-M. De Backer, Temas de Tributação e direito internacional, APED, 2008, p. 89.*
- *"Financing of airport infrastructure under State aid rules: Guidelines and Practice of the European Commission", Journaal LuchtRecht, November 2008, p. 110.*
- *"The Community Guidelines on financing of Airports and start-up aid to airlines departing from regional airports: Promoting regional airports or creating more legal uncertainty?", Journaal LuchtRecht, February 2007, p. 5.*

Other relevant experiences

- Advice and legal assistance to public authorities and regional airports on all European issues related to the airport sector (public financing, handling, airport charges, etc.)
- Notification of mergers to the European Commission and the Belgian Competition authority (steel industry, banking sector, etc.)
- Drafting and lodging complaints for abuse of dominant position before the European Commission and the Belgian Competition authority (advertisement sector, energy, postal services)