

Press Release

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CMS DeBacker
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CMS DeBacker promotes Annabelle Lepiece to partner

CMS DeBacker is proud to announce the promotion of **Annabelle Lepiece** to partner in the firm's Competition and European law practice.

Annabelle, who joined CMS DeBacker as a trainee in 1997, heads the firm's Competition and European law practice. Her team of three fee earners handles the whole range of competition and European law issues.

Annabelle specialises in European law, mainly dealing with issues surrounding competition law (state aid, dominant market positions and cartels) and EU freedoms (services, establishment and capital). She regularly advises domestic and foreign organisations active in the air transport and airports sector, the energy sector, public investments (capital injections, guarantees, loans, aid schemes, etc.) and the financing of public sector services, the banking sector and the steel industry.

Stanislas van Wassenhove, Managing Partner, said: "Annabelle has phenomenal accomplishments to her credit as practice head: building a strong dedicated Competition and European law team and gaining the trust of clients in a variety of economic sectors and I am delighted to count her as a fellow partner. Her promotion demonstrates that CMS DeBacker provides trainee lawyers with a supportive environment allowing them to progress their careers and have a real shot at making partner; this is something I'm very proud of."

Annabelle holds a law degree from the l'Université Libre de Bruxelles (1996). She also has a certificate in legal studies from the University of Aberdeen (1996) and a postgraduate degree in European law from Université Libre de Bruxelles (1997). In 2003, Annabelle took part in the European Young Lawyers' Scheme run by the University of Edinburgh and the British Council. Annabelle has been a member of the Brussels Bar since 1997.

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About CMS DeBacker

CMS DeBacker has offices in Brussels and Antwerp. It numbers about 80 lawyers, including 22 partners. CMS DeBacker handles all legal and tax its clients face, in Belgium and anywhere in Europe.
www.cms-db.com

CMS DeBacker is the Belgian member of CMS – the organisation of major independent European law firms. CMS provides clients with legal and tax solutions based on a thorough understanding of their business and industry sectors. CMS brings together over 2,400 legal and tax experts across Europe, Asia and the Middle East. CMS stands for deep local understanding in the 53 business centres in 27 jurisdictions where its people deliver unmatched expertise and client service. CMS, founded in 1999, is headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany.

CMS comprises nine European-headquartered firms: CMS DeBacker (Belgium) - CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre (France) – CMS Cameron McKenna (UK) – CMS Derks Star Busmann (The Netherlands) – CMS von Erlach Enrici (Switzerland) – CMS Hasche Sigle (Germany) – CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz (Austria) – CMS Adonnino Ascoli & Cavasola Scamoni (Italy) - CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo (Spain).
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