



Transport and Aviation

Our Transport and Aviation practice has a very strong reputation in Belgium and covers advisory, transactional and disputes work.

We offer full-service capability to the transport sector, working closely together with other departments within Liedekerke (finance, employment, competition, etc.) to respond to all legal needs of the transport business.

We maintain regular contacts with top tier foreign law firms, enabling us to offer seamless, high-quality management of cross-border cases.

OUR CLIENTS

We act on behalf of numerous domestic and foreign airlines, aircraft operators, carriers, airports, insurers, and companies in the shipping, rail and road haulage sectors.

OUR SERVICES

Contracts

Our experience of drafting, revising and negotiating contracts is vast, covering all areas connected to the principal and subsidiary activities of undertakings in the insurance and transport sectors (carriage of goods, express couriers and carriage of persons). These include aircraft maintenance contracts, cargo handling and catering contracts, leasing and charter contracts, and finance agreements.

Litigation

Our team members who are part of our market-leading international litigation and arbitration practice represent clients in cases involving liability in contract or tort, and in cases of damage, loss, delay, or personal injury in relation to the carriage of goods or persons.

We appear before the full range of ordinary, administrative, arbitral and international courts and tribunals, in Belgium and abroad.

Our litigation team assisted the Belgian Economy FPS (Ministry) in drafting the bill on class actions, and has developed a unique expertise on class actions and collective redress in Belgium, as well as internationally.

Regulatory law

We also deal with regulatory issues relating to the transport sector, such as aircraft noise regulations, pilot and air operator licence applications and renewals, and competition and compliance with various EU regulations.

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Recent work highlights include:

- We manage claims for major air and rail carriers (including their insurance and communication aspects), and are the emergency response team for an **international railway company** in the event of major crashes.
- We participate in the permanent updating of internal procedures, communication tools (i.a. the carrier's website) and contractual documents in a constantly evolving **commercial and regulatory environment**.
- We were heavily involved in setting up and developing a subsidiary of a major Belgian airline company in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**.
- We continue to represent and assist the **Belgian market leader for aviation insurance** and international insurance companies on various liability and regulatory issues in the aviation and insurance sector and in numerous court proceedings relating to plane crashes and accidents.
- We represented the Belgian national railway company in the very first **class action in Belgium**, introduced by a consumer organisation for the interruption and the suspension of the train service during eight days of strikes in 2014 and 2015.
- We represent and assist **express couriers companies** in their day-to-day business, including the procedures related to transport licences and the drafting of contracts with subcontractors.
- We assist airlines with **passenger claims handling** related to compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding, cancellation, long delay of flights, and loss of luggage.
- We are assisting more and more **temperature-controlled carriers** (transport of food and medicine) facing complex challenges.



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COUNSEL

- Jean Pierre Kesteloot

ASSOCIATES

- Francesca Biebuyck
- Charlotte Dillemans
- Emmelien Rientjes
- Jonas Vansevenant

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US

Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick's transport and aviation practice handles a range of advisory, transactional and litigation work for its client roster. Counsel Jean Pierre Kesteloot has a breadth of contentious expertise across the aviation, shipping, railway, road carriage and insurance sectors, and heads up the practice, which can leverage the firm's full-service capabilities on a range of issues including corporate, finance, employment and competition matters.

Legal 500 - 2020

The transport team at Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick 'is experienced and fields a range of experts that provide support across a broad spectrum of transport issues'.

Counsel Jean Pierre Kesteloot, who is 'a pleasure to work with and understands clients' needs', heads the practice and has broad transport and insurance expertise.

Legal 500 - 2019

CONTACT

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