

PRESS RELEASE

LIEDEKERKE APPOINTS ETIENNE KAIRIS AS PARTNER AND BERNARD VANBRABANT AS OF COUNSEL WITHIN ITS IP/IT DEPARTMENT

Brussels, 16 January 2014 – Belgian law firm Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick strengthens its IP/IT capabilities with the recruitment of Etienne Kairis, Bernard Vanbrabant and two associates.

Etienne Kairis, who will head Liedekerke's IP/IT practice, has been appointed as Partner and Bernard Vanbrabant as Of Counsel within the Commercial and Litigation Practice Group. Etienne and Bernard will be joined by a team of two experienced associates, Marie-Caroline Morelle and Peter Craddock.

Etienne Kairis has over 15 years of experience in commercial law with a focus on distribution, fair trade practices, intellectual property law and IT law. He has developed a particular expertise and a distinguished reputation in the automotive sector, notably as regards the organisation, management and restructuring of distribution networks in Belgium. Bernard Vanbrabant specialises in intellectual property law (copyright, database rights, designs, patents, trade secrets, trade marks, trade names and domain names) as well as the connected fields of contract law, distribution law and (unfair) competition law.

Olivier Vanden Berghe, who heads up Liedekerke's Commercial and Litigation Practice Group, comments: *"We are particularly pleased with the arrival of Etienne, Bernard and their team. They are a great fit for our Commercial and Litigation team and their specific expertise is an important addition to the advice we provide to our clients."*

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The IP/IT practice at Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick

Our IP practice, valued by clients for its expertise and responsiveness, reflects intellectual property's emergence as one of the main driving forces behind the business of increasing numbers of companies. We have a dedicated team of lawyers handling both litigation and non-litigation IP cases, at national and international levels. In order to provide a seamless service across a range of sectors and practice areas, we often work closely together with other teams within our firm (IT, Competition & European Law, Trade Practices & Consumer Law, Tax, etc.).

Our IT practice handles a broad spectrum of IT matters (litigation and non-litigation) nationally and internationally. Our lawyers have a sound commercial and technical understanding of the industry, and are uniquely placed to advise companies in this fast-changing sector. Our IT team works alongside other specialists within our firm to provide a seamless service across a range of sectors and practice areas.

About Liedekerke

Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick is a Belgian law firm with a major international network at its disposal. The firm is the exclusive Belgian member of Lex Mundi, the world's leading network of independent law firms, and the IP/IT department is actively involved in a large number of cross-border cases within this network.

Founded in 1965 by lawyers committed to legal excellence, Liedekerke stands out among Belgian law firms. It is one of the largest independent Belgian law firms, with over 130 lawyers and an office in London. With specialists in every area of business law, the firm offers multiple legal skills honed to doing business in the 21st century. Liedekerke renders personalised services that marry legal precision, sound practical experience and an eye for its clients' economic needs.