

PRESS RELEASE

LIEDEKERKE ELECTS TWO NEW PARTNERS IN REAL ESTATE AND IN ENERGY

Brussels, January 16th, 2013 - Premier Belgian independent law firm Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick has appointed two new partners as from 1st January 2013. **Alexandre Emond** for Real Estate and **Damien Verhoeven** for Energy.

Alexandre Emond has been part of the Real Estate Practice since joining Liedekerke in 2003. His work encompasses all aspects of real estate law such as sale, sale and leaseback, lease and other occupancy rights as well as partnership agreements for large real estate development projects. He structures real estate transactions either as assets deals or as shares deals (corporate real estate). Additionally, Alexandre has a special interest in real estate-related tax questions.

Alexandre graduated from the University of Louvain (UCL 2002) and holds an advanced master in tax law from the University of Brussels (ULB 2003). He also attended the executive real estate programme at the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management (ULB 2010).

Damien Verhoeven has been part of Liedekerke's Regulatory Practice since 2000. He specialises in energy law (electricity, gas, renewables, oil, petrochemicals) and has built a strong reputation among major players in the sector. Damien has extensive experience of specific energy market regulations, and also focuses on regulatory issues in the energy sector (project development, permits, litigation, M&A, contracts, etc). In addition to energy, he is an expert in urban planning law and other administrative law matters.

Damien has a law degree from the University of Louvain (UCL 2000). He is the author of various publications, mainly in energy and urban planning law.

Managing Partner Vincent Busschaert commented on both appointments: *"We are very enthusiastic about expanding our partnership with these two young and dedicated talents. Since joining Liedekerke, they have both significantly contributed to the development of our sectoral approach in Real Estate and in Energy. Their promotion underlines our long-established and increasing presence in those two major sectors of the economy."*

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

About Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick's Real Estate Practice

The Liedekerke Real Estate Practice is recognized as a leading practice in Belgium and participates recurrently in major transactions. The team has vast expertise and experience in all aspects of property related issues and is very well connected in the real estate market.

The core Real Estate team works seamlessly with the firm's other practices to provide a comprehensive approach to any real estate matter including tax and regulatory (city planning and environment) as well as corporate and finance aspects.

Altogether the Real Estate practice includes some 25 specialists who dedicate a significant part of their time to real estate matters. They assist Belgian and foreign clients at all stages of their property projects whether the need is for advice, drafting and negotiation of documentation, or dispute-resolution.

About Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick's Energy Practice

Liedekerke Energy Practice is long established and widely recognized for its expertise and in-depth understanding of energy markets.

The firm assists clients in sectors including oil (refining, petrochemical, retail), gas (natural gas, LNG, industrial gasses) and electricity (production, transmission, distribution, supply). Renewable and alternative energies have formed a growing part of the practice over the years, in particular on and offshore wind projects, solar energy, biomass, biofuels, waste-to-energy and cogeneration.

The firm's experience includes market regulations, renewable energy support schemes, permit acquisition, infrastructure project development, litigation, etc.

About Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick

Liedekerke is a Belgian law firm with a very strong international network. It is *inter alia* the Belgian member of Lex Mundi, the world's leading association of premier independent law firms, and of the Energy Law Group, the most important network of independent law firms with extensive expertise in energy law.

Liedekerke was named "Belgian Law Firm of the Year" at the Chambers Europe Awards 2012 as well as "Law Firm of the Year" at the Belgian Legal Awards 2012, confirming its leading position on the Belgian market.