



T: 32.2.639.0321
niels.baeten@skadden.com

Education

Postgraduate Diploma in EU Competition Law, King's College London, 2012

LL.M., European University Institute, 2011

Master in Law, Catholic University of Leuven, 2010

Bachelor in Law, Catholic University of Leuven, 2008

Bar Admissions

Brussels

Languages

Dutch

English

French

Niels Baeten's practice covers all aspects of EU, international and Belgian competition law, including merger control, state aid, abuse of dominance, cartels and antitrust compliance issues.

Mr. Baeten has nearly 10 years of experience helping global corporations navigate complex multijurisdictional merger control matters, including complex remedy structures. His practice covers a wide range of industries, including aerospace, technology, e-commerce, media and telecommunications, financial services, pharmaceuticals, energy, automotive and manufacturing.

His most recent experience includes advising:

- **Red Hat, Inc.** in its acquisition by IBM in an all-cash transaction valued at US\$34 billion;
- **Rockwell Collins, Inc.** in its US\$30 billion acquisition by United Technologies; and
- **Air Canada** in its CAD\$720 million acquisition of Transat A.T. Inc.

Mr. Baeten also has developed particular experience in EU state aid matters, specifically in the financial and energy sectors. His recent state aid experience includes:

- representing **Kingfisher Plc** in its appeal against the European Commission's (EC) decision regarding the Group Financing Exemption in the U.K.'s Controlled Foreign Company rules;
- acting for a **global pharmaceutical company** in the context of a preliminary EC state aid investigation and potential proceedings before the EU courts in relation to the company's transfer pricing and tax arrangements; and
- advising a **global energy supplier** in a EC state aid investigation into the company's contractual arrangements with an EU member state.

Mr. Baeten also regularly acts for clients in antitrust investigations before the EC and the Belgian Competition Authority, as well as on appeals before the EU courts.

Mr. Baeten has been named as a Future Leader in Competition Law in *Who's Who Legal – Non Partners 2020*, in which clients describe him as "extraordinarily quick with deep knowledge and understanding of complicated business dynamics" and "one of the most articulate attorneys in the competition space."

Prior to joining Skadden, Mr. Baeten worked in the Brussels and Paris offices of another leading international law firm. His prior experience includes representing:

- **Johnson & Johnson** in one of the EC's reverse payment investigations;
- **The Sherwin-Williams Company** in its US\$11.3 billion acquisition of Valspar Corporation;
- **Mohawk Industries** in a number of acquisitions, including International Flooring Systems (US\$2.6 billion) and Spano Invest (US\$168 million);
- a **Japanese automotive parts company** as an immunity applicant in a number of investigations by the EC;
- **Groupe Lesaffre** in a large variety of antitrust and merger control matters around the world;
- **KBC**, a Belgian financial institution, in the negotiation and execution of its state aid restructuring plan approved by the EC in the context of the financial crisis; and
- **various beneficiaries** in their appeals against the EC's negative state aid decision in connection with the Belgian "excess profit" ruling corporate tax regime.