



T: 33.1.55.27.11.56
philippe.despres@skadden.com

Education

Maîtrise, University of Paris I -
Panthéon-Sorbonne, 1998

LL.M., University of Pennsylvania
Law School, 1995

D.E.A., University of Paris I - Panthéon-
Sorbonne, 1991

Bar Admissions

Paris

Languages

French
English

Philippe Desprès heads the Paris office's labor and employment law practice, having previously been a partner at another leading international law firm.

Mr. Desprès regularly provides advice to many international and domestic companies on a wide range of issues, including matters related to restructuring operations conducted in France (often related to site closures and redundancy plans), collective negotiations, works council consultations (notably in the context of M&A transactions) and employment-related litigation.

He has represented clients in a variety of industries, including chemicals, cosmetics, entertainment, finance, luxury goods, metallurgy, packaging and pharmaceuticals, including:

- KPMG Associés S.A. in connection with its agreement with TowerBrook Capital Partners regarding the sale of the entire share capital of KPMG ESC & GS
- Nokia in its agreement with the French State regarding the sale of 80% of Alcatel Submarine Networks for an enterprise value of €350 million
- Three Hills Capital Partners and La Bottega in the acquisition of Palatino Hospitality
- Hologic in the carve-out and divestment of its French subsidiary SuperSonic Imagine
- International Paper in its \$7.2 billion recommended offer for DS Smith
- Extreme Networks in the implementation of a restructuring and a downsizing
- Technip Energies in the creation of a joint venture in the field of green hydrogen with John Cockerill
- Mercedes-Benz in its investment in European battery cell manufacturer Automotive Cells Company alongside founding joint venture partners Stellantis and TotalEnergies, with an objective to reach capacity of at least 120 GW hours in Europe by 2030 for an investment volume of more than €7 billion
- Acofi and its founding directors in connection with its merger with Sienna Investment Managers, a subsidiary of Belgian holding company Groupe Bruxelles Lambert
- Purolite Corporation in its \$3.7 billion acquisition by Ecolab Inc.
- Iliad, a listed telecom group and parent company of French telecom company Free, in connection with the acquisition of a 75% stake in Jaguar Network, a leading developer of technologies for the cloud, telecom and smart cities markets in France
- GBT Travel Services UK Limited (d/b/a American Express Global Business Travel (Amex GBT)) in its acquisition of Egencia Europe SAS from Expedia Group, Inc. As part of the transaction, Expedia will become a shareholder in Amex GBT
- Coty Inc. in its strategic partnership with KKR & Co. Inc., including the carve-out sale of 60% of its professional beauty and retail hair businesses to KKR with an enterprise value of \$4.3 billion
- Zayo Group Holdings, Inc. in its \$1.4 billion sale of zColo to Databank
- F.I.L.A. (Fabbrica Italiana Lapis e Affini S.p.A.) in connection with its \$49 million acquisition of the fine arts business operated by the AhlstromMunksjö Group under the ARCHES brand

Mr. Desprès has been repeatedly named in *The Best Lawyers in France* and recommended as a leading individual by *Chambers Europe*, in which clients have praised him as an attorney who is “always available” and someone who “fully understands [clients’] challenges.” He also has been recognized in *Who’s Who Legal: France*.

He is a member of the International Bar Association and the European Employment Lawyers Association.