

## Competition

### Our practice

Given the increased importance of competition law issues in transactions and in all types of commercial co-operation agreements, ALTIUS has developed within its commercial and competition law department a team of specialists with in-depth knowledge of Belgian and European competition law.

The Competition team advises a wide range of domestic and multinational clients on all aspects of competition law, including: merger control, strategic alliances, antitrust investigations and procedures, the establishment and operation of distribution systems, the licensing and use of intellectual property rights, State aid and abuses of dominant market positions.

The team represents clients before the Belgian and EU competition authorities and the Belgian and EU courts.

ALTIUS' Competition team also regularly assists clients in the setting up and reviewing of distribution arrangements, license agreements and other forms of horizontal and vertical co-operation agreements under antitrust rules. As the same department brings together the firm's competition law and commercial law expertise, it offers an efficient "one-stop" service for clients requiring reviews of commercial practices, distribution networks, joint ventures and other forms of co-operation agreements, both under Belgian contract law and (Belgian and EU) competition law.

The team regularly assists clients in the setting-up and rolling-out of compliance programmes and "dawn-raid" training courses. A dedicated ALTIUS' "dawn raid" team provides assistance during EU and Belgian anti-trust investigations.

### How we can help

- Abuse(s) of dominant position(s)
- Antitrust litigation before the Belgian and European courts
- Antitrust proceedings before the Belgian and European competition authorities
- Assistance during "dawn raids" and anti-trust investigations
- Assistance in setting up and reviewing distribution agreements, technology transfer agreements, license agreements, joint ventures and other forms of horizontal and vertical co-operation agreements under antitrust rules
- Cartel investigations
- Competition law compliance training and the implementation of competition law compliance programmes
- Leniency applications
- Merger control and merger filings with the Belgian and EU competition authority and the coordination of multi-jurisdictional filings
- State aid matters

### Market recognition

*"Great advice, practical, to the point, creative solutions."* – Legal 500, 2022

*"Thanks to Altius we were able to close the transaction within six months, achieving the deadline we/our shareholder had set out – and that during a pandemic. It was our first merger and Altius provided in-depth theoretical knowledge and also very useful detailed step-plans."* – Legal 500, 2022

Clients say that the lawyers *"are very knowledgeable and have a pragmatic approach, so they really dig into the needs of our business and understand what we are faced with."* – Chambers Europe, 2022

Clients appreciate that Carmen Verdonck *"always comes to us with options and proposes possible solutions to solve issues."* Sources further note *"her pragmatic understanding of the regulations."* – Chambers Europe, 2022

*"Carmen Verdonck is reactive and solution-oriented."* – Legal 500, 2021

*"She really knows what we need from a legal point of view, but also understands things pragmatically and helps us to better understand our position in situations."* – Chambers Europe, 2021

*“The head of the team, Carmen Verdonck, has significant experience. She is supported by a strong team, which includes Beatrijs Gielen. The team is involved in the most high profile cases before the Belgian and EU courts” – Legal 500, 2020*

*“Carmen Verdonck quickly and thoroughly understands the issues raised in cases. She is also very pleasant to work with, and has a good sense of humour. Beatrijs Gielen is extremely clever.” – Legal 500, 2020*

*“The competition team at ALTIUS is very knowledgeable and has a firm grasp on how businesses are confronted with competition issues, and how to solve them. They guide you all along the way” – Legal 500, 2020*

Clients say *“The lawyers give really to-the-point advice with practical tips”* and note *“they have really good knowledge of the internal procedures of the competition authority”* – Chambers Europe, 2020

#### Contact



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