

BIOTECHNOLOGY

OUR TEAM

We believe an innovative and tailor-made approach is required to meet the specialist needs of biotechnology companies. As a result, our biotechnology team comprises lawyers with a range of specialties and skills. Because a number of our lawyers have a technical background in biotechnology or biomedical sciences, we are able to quickly grasp the technical issues involved and decide upon a relevant course of action. This approach means we are recommended and recognized as a leading firm in Belgium by various legal publications, such as *Chambers Europe*, *IAM Patent 1000*, *Legal 500 EMEA*, *PLC Which Lawyer*, *Who's Who Legal* and *Guide to the World's Leading Patent Law Experts*.

LITIGATION PROFICIENCY, TO THE POINT ADVICE

The vast majority of our lawyers servicing biotechnology companies are seasoned litigators, who use their extensive courtroom experience to work with our clients to handle legal issues in a pro-active and preventive manner. The first aim of our lawyers is to prevent disputes from arising or help businesses resolve them quickly and favorably. Our litigation expertise allows us to provide our clients with clear, concise advice on all relevant issues, such as 'freedom to operate' or the misappropriation of confidential know-how related to the manipulation of specific gene sequences.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ('IP')

We provide creative advice on all aspects of IP law in the field of biotechnological processes and products. Our team has developed a preeminent reputation for representing clients in litigation relating to the validity and infringement of patents, issues of parallel imports or seizures by customs. We are also one of Belgium's leading practices when it comes to pre-trial discovery proceedings relating to the gathering of evidence of infringement.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Our team has a detailed understanding of the regulatory framework relating to the biotechnological sector and is expert in both EU and national laws. We advise and litigate on all regulatory issues, including food safety, contained use and medicinal products for human or veterinary use. We have represented clients before the Belgian administrative and civil courts and assisted clients in procedures before the European Medicines Agency (EMA), European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and other regulatory bodies.

COMPETITION LAW

We are also known for our expertise in competition law in the biotechnological sector. We regularly advise pharmaceutical, agricultural and animal feed companies on matters related to their distribution and cooperation agreements and on parallel imports. We also advise companies in these sectors on a wide range of transactional activity and represent them in merger control proceedings. We have particular experience counseling on competition law compliance and offer related training, both, online and face-to-face, specifically tailored for individual companies or associations.

CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL LAW

Our team advises biotechnology clients on the full range of corporate and commercial issues affecting their businesses. We have significant experience in corporate finance transactions, advising our clients on funding rounds, from seed rounds through to pre-IPO equity transactions. Our lawyers also advise on IPOs and subsequent fundraising on a range of securities exchanges and capital markets across Europe as well as in the United States. The team regularly advises on joint venture arrangements, commercial contracts, employment matters, corporate governance and compliance issues. We also assist our clients with issues relating to advertising, clinical trials, data protection,

research and development joint ventures with universities or the private sector, and manufacturing agreements.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented clients in infringement proceedings and related proceedings (seizure proceedings, preliminary injunction proceedings) concerning a genetically modified bacterial strain.
- Advised on freedom to operate (FTO) issues.
- Assisted clients in resolving a dispute as to the

ownership of (the IP contained in) a joint research project regarding cancer therapy.

- Secured the destruction of GMO-based feed additives that violated EU production requirements.
- Advised on clinical trials and related data protection issues.
- Litigated a trademark infringement case relating to pesticides.
- Reviewed internal policies on the protection of the confidential know-how of a multinational biotechnology company.

CONTACTS



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