

Press Release

19 January 2017

MERGERMARKET PLACES GOLTSBLAT BLP AMONG THE LEADING LAW FIRMS IN RUSSIA FOR M&A

The prominent global publication **Mergermarket** has recognised Goltsblat BLP, the Russian practice of the international law firm Berwin Leighton Paisner (BLP), among the TOP-3 M&A legal advisors in Russia by deal count in 2016.

The firm's high ranking is a product of the landmark deals handled by our Corporate / M&A lawyers throughout 2016, including: advising the **Federal Agency for State Property Management (Rosimuschestvo)** on shareholders' agreements in **Sheremetyevo International Airport** and **Vnukovo Airport**, supporting Russia's biggest auto-dealer **Rolf Group** in consolidating its business with **Pelican-Auto**, advising **Itella Russia** on its acquisition of MaxiPost, acting for **Severgroup** on its sale of Metcombank to Sovcombank, advising **Intel** on Russian aspects of acquiring a group of companies headquartered in the USA, advising a private Russian investor on purchasing hotels in Austria, rendering advice on the sale of a bakery plant in the Moscow Region, and many more.

Last year's excellent performance by Goltsblat BLP's Corporate / M&A Practice won recognition from numerous Russian and international publications: in December, the **Pravo.ru 300** annual ranking placed the firm in Band 1 for Corporate Law; at the annual **Russia M&A Awards** delivered by Cbonds-Congress and PREQVECA agency, **Goltsblat BLP** was recognised among the top three Corporate / M&A legal advisors in Russia. Other accolades bestowed earlier in 2016 include Band 2 of the M&A deal rating according to **International Financial Law Review (IFLR 1000)**, **Russia Law Firm of the Year-M&A** at the annual M&A Atlas Awards 2016, etc.

Anton Sitnikov, Partner, Head of Corporate / M&A, Goltsblat BLP: *"2016 was a challenging and thrilling year. It saw us working hard on a wide range of high-profile deals and also receiving awards, high rating positions and other laurels. We are grateful to the ranking directories for this recognition and we would like to thank our clients for the trust they place in our firm. I also thank the whole team for their exceptional professionalism, focus and commitment. I am certain that 2017 will be even more productive and successful".*

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Goltsblat BLP summary

Goltsblat BLP is the Russian practice of Berwin Leighton Paisner (BLP), a leading international law firm headquartered in London, with its offices operating in major commercial and financial centres throughout the world – Moscow, Abu Dhabi, Beijing, Berlin, Brussels, Dubai, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Paris, Singapore, Tel Aviv and Yangon.

As many as 100 lawyers qualified in Russian, English and US law are based in Goltsblat BLP's office in Moscow, with lawyers in BLP's international offices numbering over 1000.

Goltsblat BLP's international team provides transactional support for inbound and outbound investments by Russian and international clients, offers legal support for corporate, M&A, real estate and banking and finance transactions, dispute resolution, infrastructure and other complex projects and represents its clients on multi-jurisdiction matters.

Among Goltsblat BLP's clients are over 1700 companies, including major multinational investors operating in Russia (including 130 Forbes Global clients), Russian and international banks and financial institutions and Russian industry-leading companies.

Goltsblat BLP is the winner of 25 national and international awards over the past five years, including:

Russia Law Firm of the Year – Chambers Europe Awards 2015 and shortlisted for 2016;

International Law Firm of the Year – The Lawyer European Awards 2014 and shortlisted in 2015; Legal Business Awards 2010 / Legal 500 and shortlisted in 2015, 2016;

Client Service Law Firm of the Year – Chambers Europe Awards 2014 and 2010;

A Top-3 major international law firm in Russia for two years in a row (2015 and 2016) – the national ranking by the prestigious Russian business publication Kommersant;

A Top-3 international law firm in Russia by income and by income per lawyer – Pravo.ru 2015 national ranking.

Full Service Law Firm of the Year – Annual ACQ Country Awards 2011;

Law Firm of the Year for Russia – Finance Monthly Law Awards 2011;

Innovation in International Expansion – Financial Times Innovative Lawyer Awards 2011 (shortlisted);

Best Law Firm in Russia – ILO Client Choice Awards 2010.