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## Chambers Global has once again recognised Pepeliaev Group's tax practice as the best in Russia

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The Chambers Global 2014 international ratings have hailed Pepeliaev Group's tax practice and the firm's managing partner Sergey Pepeliaev as Russia's best in the area of taxation (band 1 and Star Individuals). Commentators describe Mr Pepeliaev as "the father of Russian taxation." He has an outstanding reputation in tax litigation, for which he is said to be "absolutely brilliant."

In addition, Chambers Global lavishes praise on Rustem Ahmetshin (band 2), one of the firm's senior partners, who has considerable expertise in areas such as VAT and audit advice. Chambers Global sources commend Pepeliaev Group partner Valentina Akimova (band 3) as a "smart tax specialist." She has significant experience in a wide range of tax matters such as VAT, income tax and excise duties.

Sources recommend Andrey Nikonov (band 3), another senior partner in the firm, as an authority on VAT, mineral extraction tax and unified social tax. Chambers Global also rates Mr Nikonov highly for his experience in resolving tax disputes advising on the tax aspects of M&A transactions.

Sergey Sosnovsky (band 3) heads the tax practice in Pepeliaev Group's office in St Petersburg. According to Chambers Global, one of his key areas of expertise is enforcement of VAT and profit tax legislation. A source notes: "I can always speak openly with him and we have constructive conversations."

Chambers Global also rates Pepeliaev Group's intellectual property practice highly (band 3). Sources say that the head of the practice Valentina Orlova (band 2) "knows the Russian legal side of IP inside out." She has been advising on IP for 30 years and is recommended for her expert opinions, which are highly regarded by commentators.

Chambers Global has also named the international association Taxand, of which Pepeliaev Group is a member, as the best global network which brings together lawyers from all over the world.

**PEPELIAEV GROUP** is a leading Russian law firm offering the full range of legal services in all regions of Russia, CIS countries, and abroad. Over 160 lawyers in three offices (Moscow, St Petersburg, and Krasnoyarsk) provide legal support to more than 1,500 companies from various industries. 60% of our clients are international corporations which are making strategic investments in the Russian economy.

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