

Press Release

27 October 2016

GOLTSBLAT BLP ADVISES ON SALE OF A 100% SHARE IN METCOMBANK TO PAO SOVCOMBANK

Acting for Severgroup, **Goltsblat BLP**, the Russian practice of international law firm **Berwin Leighton Paisner (BLP)**, advised on sale to PAO Sovcombank of a 100% shareholding in AO Metcombank, the biggest commercial bank in the Volgograd Region and a leader on the Russian car lending market.

This September, Sovcombank's application to acquire 100% of Metcombank was cleared by the Russian Federal Antimonopoly Service (FAS). In late August, Sovcombank advised that Severgroup and Sovcombank would close the Metcombank acquisition by the end of the third quarter of 2016, once the requisite regulatory approvals were granted. On 7 October 2016, Severgroup and Sovcombank announced that the approvals had been issued and the transaction closed successfully.

The **Goltsblat BLP** project team was headed by Corporate and M&A partner **Ekaterina Dedova** and included: **Matvey Kaploukhiy**, Corporate/ M&A partner, **Tatiana Parshak**, Banking and Finance Head of Group, and **Dmitry Sheludyaev**, Corporate/ M&A Associate.

Founded in 1993 as a private investment company, Severgroup includes ZAO Severgroup and OOO Capital. The Group makes long-term investments and manages assets on behalf of Alexey Mordashov.

PAO Sovcombank is a universal bank ranked 20th in Russia in terms of assets (RUB 522 bn). In 2015, the Bank's IFRS-reported profit totalled RUB 19 bn.

AO Metcombank, the biggest bank in the Volgograd Region, was founded in 1990 and has established partner relations with AvtoVAZ, OOO Lifan Motors Rus and ZAO GM-Avtovaz. At the end of 2014, it was named a top-10 Russian bank in terms of the volume and number of car loans issued. It also participates in the government support programme for concessional auto lending.

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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 1300 companies, including major multinational investors operating in Russia (including 37 Fortune 500 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.