

Press Release

GOLTSBLAT BLP ANNOUNCES REINFORCEMENT OF ITS INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION PRACTICE, RUSSIA & CIS, WELCOMING YURY BABICHEV AS HEAD OF GROUP

Goltsblat BLP, the Russian practice of the international law firm Berwin Leighton Paisner (BLP), announces that Yury Babichev has joined the firm as new Head of Group (International Arbitration, Cross-border Disputes) to reinforce its Dispute Resolution Practice driven by the growing demand from our national and international clients for dispute resolution services, specifically international litigation.

Before joining Goltsblat BLP, Yury Babichev worked with Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP for 10 years. He has extensive experience of dispute resolution in foreign courts, including international arbitration, cross-border litigation and shareholder disputes requiring co-ordinated efforts by lawyers from several jurisdictions. He has acted for major Russian companies, individuals and the Russian Federation.

The Goltsblat BLP Dispute Resolution Practice has demonstrated impressive growth over the last few years and it is one of the firm's key practice areas. The International Arbitration Group for Russia and CIS is part of BLP's Global International Arbitration Practice. It is led by London-based partner Roman Khodykin and also includes Partner Elena Trusova and Head of Group Rimma Malinskaya both based in Moscow.

BLP's Global International Arbitration Practice is among the strongest on the market: over the last five years, Global Arbitration Review, Legal 500 and Chambers have awarded it top ranking in international arbitration, including commercial, investment, construction and insurance arbitration. BLP's Global International Arbitration team includes over 30 specialist lawyers based in London, Moscow, Singapore, Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

The Global International Arbitration Practice offers legal support for complex and high-profile arbitral cases, from formulating an international case strategy to the international enforcement of arbitral awards in multiple jurisdictions. The team have experience of conducting arbitrations in all the major arbitration centres including Asian arbitration centres, such as the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), which have evolved as popular alternatives to London, Paris and Stockholm particularly with Russian businesses in view of recent geopolitical developments, particularly the US and EU sanctions.

Roman Khodykin, Partner, Head of International Arbitration Practice for Russia & CIS at BLP: *"With the growing demand from our clients for dispute resolution services, particularly international arbitration, we are very pleased to welcome Yury to the team in Moscow. He brings with him extensive experience of acting for the Russian Federation and major national corporates in international arbitrations across a range of jurisdictions and will be a valuable addition to the team."*

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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;

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

The Most Effective and the 3rd largest law firm in Russia in 2015 – national ranking by Kommersant.ru;

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.

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