

Press release

24 August 2016

GOLTSBLAT BLP TOP IN M&A DEAL COUNT ACCORDING TO MERGERS.RU

Goltsblat BLP, the Russian practice of the international law firm Berwin Leighton Paisner (BLP), retains its M&A lead on the Russian market and is currently number one in terms of number of deals this year to date according to the Russian information and analytical platform Mergers.ru (Cbonds Group)*.

The firm’s position is due to this year’s landmark transactions, including advising the **Federal Agency for State Property Management (Rosimushchestvo)** on shareholders’ agreement in Sheremetyevo International Airport, supporting Russia’s biggest car dealer **Rolf Group** in its merger with Pelikan Avto, advising **Itella Russia** on its acquisition of MaxiPost, a **private Russian investor** on purchasing a hotel in Austria and also advising on sale of a bakery in the Moscow Region, etc.

You will remember that Goltsblat BLP’s success and work on landmark projects have already been appraised this year by leading international M&A publications: in July, **Mergermarket** placed the firm in the second place among law firms in Russia in numbers of M&A deals during the first half of 2016. The entire team of partners and associates of the Corporate practice/ M&A and other Goltsblat BLP practices working on the deals undoubtedly contributed to this.

Anton Sitnikov, Partner, Head of Corporate/ M&A Practice, Goltsblat BLP, commented: *"We are thankful to the organisers of the rating for the opportunity to participate and for such a high appraisal of our work. The last six months have, indeed, seen many interesting and complex projects with clients having allowed us to make a series of these public for the rating. I would also like to give separate thanks to our clients for choosing and placing their trust in our firm and to all the partners and associates of the Corporate and other practices for their effective work and co-operation".*

**Appendix 1 – summary table of Mergers.ru rating as of 23 August 2016.*

РЭНКИНГ ПО КОЛИЧЕСТВУ СДЕЛОК ЗА 2016 ГОД		
R	Adviser	Количество сделок
1	Goltsblat BLP	9
2	Dentons	5
3	DLA Piper	4
4	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom	3
5	Линия права	3
6	Baker & McKenzie	2
7	Baker Botts LLP	1
	Herbert Smith Freehills	1
8	АльТХАУС Лигал	1
9	O2 Consulting	1
10	Linklaters	1
11	Chadbourne & Parke LLP	1

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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.