

## Press release

12 July 2016

### **GOLTSBLAT BLP A LEADER IN THE MERGERMARKET RATING BY M&A DEAL COUNT IN THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 2016**

Goltsblat BLP, the Russian practice of the international law firm Berwin Leighton Paisner (BLP), came in second among all law firms in Russia by number of M&A deals\* during the first six months of 2016, according to Mergermarket.

The firm's high position is a product of landmark deals early in the year, including advising: the **Federal State Property Management Agency (Rosimushchestvo)** on disposing of shares in **Vnukovo** and **Sheremetyevo Airports**, **Rolf Group**, Russia's largest car dealer, in consolidating business with **Pelican-Auto**, **Itella Russia** on acquiring the Russian company MaxiPost, and a private Russian investor on acquisition of hotels in Austria.

**Anton Sitnikov**, Partner, Head of Goltsblat BLP Corporate Practice/ M&A, noted: *"We are delighted with our high rating. During the last six months, we have, indeed, been involved in many high-profile and complex projects with a number of clients having already allowed us to announce deals in mass media. We are grateful to our clients for choosing our firm and their confidence in us, and are thankful to all the partners and associates of the Corporate and other practices for their effective work and co-operation."*

In its ratings, **Mergermarket**, a leading M&A analysis publication, uses a network of key M&A media and experts in the US, Europe, Asia and the Asia-Pacific Region, central Europe and Africa. It rates law firms throughout the world from the perspective of their work on the biggest M&A deals.

Goltsblat BLP's success on the legal services market and work on landmark projects have already been appraised this year by leading Russian and international publications. For instance, the firm was short-listed for awards by **Chambers Europe Awards 2016** and **Legal Business Awards 2016** in the categories "Best Law Firm in Russia" and "International Firm of the Year".

Andrey Goltsblat, Managing Partner of Goltsblat BLP, has been recognised for the fourth year running as an Eminent Practitioner in corporate law/ M&A by **Chambers Global**, a Leading Lawyer by **Legal 500 2016** and **IFLR1000 2016**, and Lawyer of the Year in corporate law by **Best Lawyers 2013. Who's Who Legal** mentions Andrey Goltsblat and Anton Sitnikov as leading experts in corporate law and support for M&A deals.

For several years now, **The European Legal 500, Chambers & Partners** has recommended Anton Sitnikov in corporate law and support for M&A projects. Anton has been recognised by **Best Lawyers 2009 - 2017** as one of the Best Lawyers in Russia in corporate law/ M&A and **IFLR1000 2014 – 2016** listed him among the Leading Lawyers in Corporate Law.

\*Deal value is confidential.

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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.