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Press Release

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GOLTSBLAT BLP BOOSTS ASIA PRACTICE WITH APPOINTMENT OF PARTNER SERGEY MILANOV IN MOSCOW

Goltsblat BLP, the Russian practice of the international law firm Berwin Leighton Paisner (BLP), announces that Sergey Milanov is joining the firm as Head of Asia Practice in Moscow and Partner in Banking & Finance Practice. Georgy Daneliya is also joining the team as a Senior Associate.

This appointment will strengthen the firm's Asia-related capabilities, driven by the growing demand from our Russian and international clients actively exploring new markets in this region, turning to Asia for investment support and considerable increase in Asia investments into Russia, especially the Russian Far East.

Sergey Milanov has significant experience in Asia and in Japan, in particular. He is currently the only foreign lawyer authorised in Japan to advise on Russian law there. Before joining Goltsblat BLP, Sergey Milanov was a Partner at K&L Gates for over 5 years, splitting his time between the Moscow and Tokyo offices, and before that also practised with Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP in Tokyo, White & Case LLP in Moscow, New York and Tokyo.

Sergey has an impressive track record in Project Finance in the Russian Oil & Gas sector; he has advised on implementation of big PSA projects for developing oil and gas deposits in the Russian Far East and Eastern Siberia, including representation of the lenders in such projects, as well as some of their Japanese and US sponsors, focusing on both extraction facilities and the export infrastructure, such as pipelines and sea terminals for such projects.

Sergey also works on Corporate/ M&A transactions and joint ventures in the Oil & Gas, car manufacturing, telecommunications, infrastructure and transport sectors. He also has experience in advising on Greenfield projects for establishing Japanese distributors, dealers and manufacturing subsidiaries in Russia.

This appointment is in line with our strategy of expanding to the Asian markets, especially Japan, Singapore, Korea and China. Following the recent relocation by Ian Ivory, Partner, Corporate/ M&A, to Hong Kong, this lateral hire puts Goltsblat BLP in a unique position in the Asia region and also enables the firm to service Asian clients in Russia. Our cross-office Asia team is multi-disciplinary and multi lingual. Moscow-based lawyers of the Asia team, including Banking & Finance Practice Partner Oleg Khokhlov, have considerable experience of work on Asia-related projects jointly with BLP London and Asia offices in Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore and Myanmar. Sergey Milanov will be based in Moscow, splitting his time between Japan and the relevant BLP offices.

Sergey Milanov is admitted to the Bar of New York, the Bar of Primorski Region and the Daini Tokyo Bar Association. Sergey is admitted in Japan as a Gaikokuho jimu bengoshi (Authorised Consultant in Foreign Law) for the laws of New York State and the Russian Federation. He is a graduate of the Law Faculty at the Law and State Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, (LL.M., 2000), Harvard Law School (LL.M., 1992) and University of Sofia School of Law, (LL.B., 1988). He speaks Russian, Japanese, English, French and Bulgarian.



Together with Sergey, Georgy Daneliya will join Goltsblat BLP as a Senior Associate. Georgy's practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, real estate, general corporate transactions, and litigation in Russia, with particular focus on the Russian Far East region. Georgy has been working with Sergey, providing legal services on Russian law to clients in Japan, for seven years. Before joining K&L Gates, Georgy worked at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP at their Tokyo office and White & Case LLP at their Moscow office, and has also worked as in-house counsel at a major Russian real estate development company. Georgy is admitted to the Bar of Tatarstan Republic of the Russian Federation.

Andrey Goltsblat, Managing Partner of Goltsblat BLP: "We are very pleased to welcome both Sergey and Georgy to our team in Moscow. This hire will undoubtedly further strengthen our international capabilities in Moscow and BLP globally. We are convinced that it will help us meet to the maximum the needs and expectations of both Russian and Asian businesses, helping our clients successfully implement new projects in Russia and on the Asian markets."

Oleg Khokhlov, Partner, Head of Banking & Finance of Goltsblat BLP:

"I am sure that the Asian experience of Sergey and Georgy will strengthen our offering. It is also important that our clients will have access to US law capabilities on the ground."

Sergey Milanov, Partner, Head of Asia Practice of Goltsblat BLP: "I am delighted to join Goltsblat BLP and I believe that, by joining the Moscow office of BLP, we will reinforce its recognition in the Asian, especially Japanese, business community and will also help overcome any communications barriers that current and potential Asia clients of the firm might be experiencing, making sure that the uniquely broad expertise of the Moscow office is made available effectively to each and every client."

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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.