

15 December 2016**GOLTSBLAT BLP AGAIN NAMED LEADING M&A LAW FIRM IN RUSSIA**

The Corporate / M&A Practice of **Goltsblat BLP**, the Russian practice of international law firm Berwin Leighton Paisner (BLP), has continued its excellent performance in 2016 and received further accolades. At the annual **Russia M&A Awards** delivered by Cbonds-Congress and PREQVECA information and analysis, **Goltsblat BLP** was recognised among the top three leading Corporate / M&A legal advisors in Russia. The recently released **Pravo.ru 300** annual ranking also places **Goltsblat BLP** in Band 1 for Corporate Law.

The Russia M&A Awards have been granted to leading law and other advisory firms, investment banks and Russian M&A deals since 2010, following polling of M&A market participants by Preqveca.ru.

Pravo.ru is one of Russia's most respected law practice publications featuring one of the Russia's pre-eminent ratings. For 7 years, it has been providing comprehensive analysis of the Russian legal market, law firms operating in Russia, with annual assessment criteria including the scale and complexity of a firm's projects over a year, client feedback and further judgement national by an expert council comprised of eminent Russian lawyers and representatives from national and international companies.

The announcement comes in the wake of other accolades bestowed on **Goltsblat BLP's** Corporate / M&A Practice in 2016. In May and July **Mergermarket** placed the firm among the three market leaders, and in August **Goltsblat BLP** topped the **Mergers.ru** ranking by the number of M&A deals completed in the first six months of 2016. **Goltsblat BLP** was also named the **Russian M&A Law Firm of the Year 2016** at the international M&A Atlas Awards in November.

Anton Sitnikov, Partner, Head of Corporate / M&A, Goltsblat BLP: *"After a challenging and thrilling year, I am very happy that we have received such great accolades. 2016 has seen us working on a range of high-profile M&A deals, supporting both Russian and foreign clients, who we thank for choosing and trusting Goltsblat BLP. I am certain that the coming year will be even busier, but am more than confident our team will continue to deliver exceptional service to its clients."*

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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 1700 companies, including major multinational investors operating in Russia (including 130 Forbes Global 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.