
HERBERT SMITH
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Greece Group.
Dedicated,
cross-practice
capability.

Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer.
Your goals. Our ambition.

Whether you are an international company with activities in Greece or a Greek company with global interests, our team of lawyers provides sophisticated legal advice that bridges Greek market expertise with the resources of a leading global law firm.

We have built a strong reputation for advising clients on international, English, and EU law across a wide range of complex, cross-border matters with a Greek nexus. Our extensive local knowledge, combined with access to our global network of multi-practice experts, ensures that clients receive comprehensive, seamlessly coordinated support.

We combine transactional and regulatory expertise with a deep understanding of local deal dynamics, delivering fully integrated advice for both inbound investment into Greece and outbound work by Greek clients. We maintain close working relationships with several leading Greek law firms, allowing us to incorporate Greek law advice seamlessly into our services.

We also have significant experience in international disputes and arbitration, and have represented Greek clients in high-profile litigation before the English courts.

The Greece Group draws on lawyers from across our international network, bringing together specialists in M&A, competition/antitrust, cross-border disputes, financing, and financial services regulation. Our clients span a broad range of sectors, including energy, financial markets, real estate and infrastructure, telecommunications, and consumer goods.

Expertise and resources:

The Group is made up of **over 70 lawyers** who have a direct interest in the Greek market, and consists of several Greek speakers, including **Kyriakos Fountoukakos** (Managing Partner of Competition/Antitrust, Regulation and Trade) and **Ioannis Asimakopoulos** (Senior Associate, Corporate).

Individuals in the Group have **specific experience** on advising companies **in connection with Greek-related matters**. The group includes a number of Greek-qualified lawyers **with in-depth knowledge of the Greek legal system and market**.

The Group has **strong connections with many of the most prominent Greek law firms**.

Lead contacts



Kyriakos Fountoukakos
Greece Territory Partner
T +32 2 518 1840
M +44 7920 455 155
kyriakos.fountoukakos@hsfkramer.com



Ioannis Asimakopoulos
Senior Associate
T +32 2 518 1824
M +44 7443 296 878
ioannis.asimakopoulos@hsfkramer.com



Selected experience

- **United Group** and its Greek subsidiary **Nova** on a landmark merger notification to the European Commission of the acquisition of joint control over Alpha Satellite TV, operating a leading free-to-air TV channel "ALPHA TV" in Greece. A groundbreaking case.
- **Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator** (DESFA) in successfully securing unconditional Phase I EU merger clearance for DESFA's acquisition of a 20% stake in GASTRADE. Listed as a European 'Project of Common Interest'.
- **CMA-CGM** as member of a consortium with German and Russian investors, on the acquisition from the Greek State of a controlling stake in Thessaloniki Port Authority (listed on the Athens stock exchange).
- **IGI**, the joint venture between Edison and DEPA, on the procurement of the Poseidon natural gas pipeline between the Turkish-Greek border and Italy.
- **IGI Poseidon SA** on the Bulgaria–Greece interconnector, advising in relation to the initial formation of the joint venture between IGI Poseidon and Bulgarian Energy Holdings and development of the IGB Pipeline.
- **Eni SpA** as international counsel on the Greek merger control aspects of its acquisition of a 100% interest in gas & power retailer Zenith (EPA Thessaloniki/Thessaly).
- **United Group** in successfully securing unconditional Phase I EU merger clearance for its acquisition of rival Greek telecoms operator Wind Hellas.
- **Tsakiris** (a subsidiary of CCHBC) on EU competition law aspects in connection with a successful abuse of dominance complaint against Tasty Foods (a PepsiCo subsidiary) in the Greek salty snacks market resulting in the Hellenic Competition Commission imposing a significant fine on Tasty Foods.
- The **Hellenic Republic**, the **Hellenic Post** and the **Hellenic Corporation of Assets and Participations** on all state aid matters (cases SA.57538,S A.57982, S.A. 56616) related to the restructuring of the Hellenic Post.
- **Diageo** on the restructuring of the Diageo Group in Greece, Spain, and Portugal.
- **Hastings managed funds** on the AU$250m acquisition of interests in Athens, Dusseldorf, Hamburg and Sydney Airports.
- **Green Investment Group** on an acquisition of an interest in a solar development platform in Greece.
- **The Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network** in the 2 billion sale of a 49% stake to Macquarie.
- **The Greek Regulatory Authority for Energy** on state aid matters in relation to the interconnection of Crete to the mainland power grid.
- The shareholder of Greek private colleges (**IEK AKMI** and **Metropolitan College**) on the sale of their shares to private equity fund, BC Partners.
- **Goldman Sachs International** as arranger of a €5.1 billion securitisation for National Bank of Greece (NBG) involving the issue of bonds by a newly incorporated SPV to finance the purchase of cashflows under a long-term interest-rate swap between NBG and the Hellenic Republic.
- **Crédit Agricole CIB** on the restructuring of the Emporiki (Greek Bank) debt, the transfer of shipping loans to Crédit Agricole CIB and the sale of Emporiki to Alpha Bank (a Greek leading bank).
- **Ellington Management Group** in relation to the financing of the acquisition by Aldridge of the subordinated notes in a €1.3 billion securitisation of non-performing loans undertaken by Attica Bank.
- A **major Greek systemic bank** on a major outsourcing project of its core banking services.
- A **major Greek systemic bank** on the corporate and financial services regulatory elements of a new capital issuance.
- A **telecoms provider** on EU competition law aspects in an abuse of dominance complaint against another telecoms provider before the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT).
- A **confidential client** on its acquisition of three greenfield development solar PV projects in Greece, totalling 730MW.
- A **syndicate of lenders** on their financing of Apollo's acquisition of a non-performing loan portfolio from Bank of Cyprus.
- A **healthcare and consumer goods manufacturer** in an ICC arbitration concerning a post M&A dispute, seated in Switzerland and governed by Greek law, working with co-counsel in Greece.
- A **Japanese trading company** in defending litigation in Greece in relation to a US$36 million claim arising out of a shipbuilding contract.
- **Financial institutions** on the financing of the project consisting of the design, construction, financing, operation, maintenance and exploitation of the new international airport at the site in Kastelli, Heraklion (Crete-Greece).
- A **confidential client** on the proposed acquisition and development of a number of battery storage projects located in Europe, including in Greece.
- A **Greek airline company** in its litigation before the Greek courts in respect of enforcement measures against its assets.

Key contacts.

Market-leading specialists.



Kyriakos Fountoukakos
Partner
Competition/Antitrust, Regulation and Trade, Brussels
T +32 2 518 1840
M +44 7920 455 155
kyriakos.fountoukakos@hsfkramer.com



Ioannis Asimakopoulos
Senior Associate
Corporate, Brussels/London
T +32 2 518 1824
M +44 7443 296 878
ioannis.asimakopoulos@hsfkramer.com



Malcolm Lombers
Partner
Corporate, London
T +44 20 7466 2823
malcolm.lombers@hsfkramer.com



Marina Reason
Partner
Financial Services Regulatory, London
T +44 20 7466 2288
marina.reason@hsfkramer.com



Silke Goldberg
Partner
Corporate, Global Head of ESG/Sustainability, London
T +44 20 7466 2612
silke.goldberg@hsfkramer.com



Julian Copeman
Partner
Disputes, London
T +44 20 7466 2168
julian.copeman@hsfkramer.com



Tim Healey
Partner
Real Estate (Construction & Engineering), London
T +44 20 7466 2356
tim.healey@hsfkramer.com



Steven Dalton
Partner
Corporate, London
T +44 20 7466 2537
steven.dalton@hsfkramer.com



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