

***CONFLICT (RE)SOLUTION***  
***“Success is a choice”***

**Billiet & Co Lawyers**

Avenue Louise 146 B-1050 Brussels

Tel: +(32) 2 643 33 01

Fax: +(32) 2 646 24 31

[info@billiet-co.be](mailto:info@billiet-co.be)

[www.billiet-co.be](http://www.billiet-co.be)

## General

Billiet & Co is a reputed business law firm with over 40 years of experience. We are particularly known for thorough research and customized assistance. Our team of experts will listen to your needs and is ready to serve you.

Our conflict (re)solution practice includes the following areas:

- [Arbitration](#)
- [Litigation](#)
- [Amicable solution](#)

Why our clients choose us:

- [Business focus](#): We adopt a hands on and customized approach that maximises business sense
- [Client-driven](#): Through diagnosis we identify, together with the client, which legal path would best reflect the client's interests.
- [Outstanding reputation](#): We have won numerous legal awards for excellence and outstanding services.
- [Interdisciplinary](#): We closely work together with specialist accountants, tax advisors and other experts.
- [International reach](#): We operate through a carefully selected network of foreign partners in over 50 jurisdictions.

We are at the forefront of current and future legal practices and are committed to using our knowledge and experience to always deliver excellent services.

Our expertise has been acknowledged through [numerous prizes and awards](#), such as: "Belgium's Leading Adviser in Dispute Resolution" (AI Magazine's annual Leading Adviser of the Year Awards 2017); "Arbitrator of the Year – Belgium" (Corporate Insider Legal Awards 2017); "Arbitration Lawyer of the Year in Belgium" (Global 100 – 2017); "Most Outstanding in International Arbitration law - Belgium" (2017 M&A Corporate LiveWire awards); "Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in Belgium" (2017 Corporate Intl Global Awards - Editors' Choice category); "Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year" (2016 Corporate Intl Magazine Global Award); "International Arbitrator of the Year – Belgium" (2016 AI Legal Awards); "Arbitration Law firm of the Year – Belgium" (2015 Corporate LiveWire Awards); "Best Alternative Dispute Resolution Law Firm – Belgium" (2015 M&A Awards); "Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year – Belgium" (GLE 2015 Annual Awards); "Cross-Border Disputes Lawyer of the year – Belgium" (2015 Corporate Livewire Awards); "Alternative Dispute Resolution firm of the year – Belgium" (2015 Corporate Livewire Awards); "Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year 2015" (Corporate Intl Magazine Legal Award); "Best in International Arbitration – Belgium 2014" (Acquisition International Legal Awards); "Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year in Belgium 2014" (Global Law Experts – GLE); "Client Choice – Dispute Resolution Law Award in Belgium 2014" (Legal Finest 200 Awards).

Our team works in English, Dutch, French, Russian, German, Spanish, Greek, Ukrainian, and Romanian.

## Arbitration

We are one of the most reputed firms worldwide in the fields of domestic, international commercial and investment arbitration. Our team frequently represents clients in multi-million € disputes including those involving States. The team has won numerous legal awards for excellence in this field. Members of our team are recognized as arbitrators by many reputed arbitration institutes across the world.

### Our recent experience includes:

- Advising and representing Russian News Agency TASS in enforcement proceedings arising from the high-profile case *Yukos Universal Limited (Isle of Man) v. The Russian Federation*. This is a case with a financial stake exceeding 50 billion USD.
- Advising and representing Moldova and Moldatsa in the well-known case *Energogalliance Ltd. (Ukraine) v. the Republic of Moldova*.
- Advising the Ukrainian Government in relation to a dispute settlement procedure between the Ukraine and the EU regarding the Ukraine's investment laws in the **car manufacturing** sector and the relevant Ukrainian State subsidies in that sector.
- Advising and representing one of the world's leading **mining and metals** companies in LCIA arbitration regarding a dispute over a breach of sales contract.
- Advising on the impact of the Energy Charter on trade in **natural gas** between Russia and the EU and on transit of gas issues under GATT and the Energy Charter.
- Representing a client in CEPANI arbitration regarding a dispute over a breach of **shareholders' agreement** and a **share purchase agreement**.
- Advising a major international **sports** association in an arbitration with a media company, where abuse of a dominant position affecting the licensing of **TV broadcasting rights** was alleged.
- **Advising various EU national legislators** on the adoption of new dispute resolution tools in their national laws.
- **Chairing an arbitral tribunal** in a case concerning a dispute arising out an international contract between a US and a Russian company.
- Acting on behalf of a multinational company in arbitration proceedings relating to several **domain names**.
- Chairing arbitral tribunals in various disputes involving **travel agents, tour operators** and **airline companies**.
- **Advising a non-EU member State** on how to increase FDI by amending local rules on dispute resolution.

## Litigation

The team includes highly experienced lawyers that are known for their ability to handle complex litigation issues. These lawyers are known to have given shape to current legal practices, especially in the distribution sector (e.g. involved in all 3 landmark cases of the Belgian Supreme Court).

### Our recent experience in national litigation includes:

- Successfully representing a **telecoms** operator in complex litigation to challenge **punitive damages**.
- Obtaining, on repeated occasions, **confiscation measures** and **execution orders** reflecting multi-million € amounts, against unwilling parties.
- Conducting **exequatur, execution** and **annulment proceedings** in relation to arbitral awards, frequently amounting to multi-million EUR financial stakes.
- Conducting numerous **liability proceedings** against directors, service providers, etc.
- Bringing **punitive damages claims** to successfully stop bad faith behaviour in multiple sectors.
- Ensuring the dissolution of a major **distribution** network for non-compliance with legal obligations towards franchisees.
- Preventing that a major **construction** project would be developed in violation of the **Habitat Directive**.
- Putting an end to **price fixing practices** in relation to book sales.

### Our recent experience in international litigation includes:

- Representing **mining** companies in a major State aid procedure before the EU General Court in Luxembourg against the European Commission's decision in relation to alleged State aid as a result of a below market value sale in a national mining sector.
- Representing **Chinese exporters** before the European Court of Justice against the European Commission appeal regarding the imposition of EU anti-dumping duties on the Chinese herbicide glyphosate. This has been a landmark case that influenced the trade relations between China and the EU.
- Representing a major **media group** from Italy before the European Courts in State aid litigation proceedings regarding alleged aid for the purchase of **digital decoders**.

- Representing a major Greek **ferry** company before the EU general Court and the European Court of Justice in the famous *Greek Ferries cartel* case.
- Representing a **tobacco** processing company in litigation before the national and EU Courts.
- Representing the European Commission and the European Investment Bank in **public procurement** litigation before the European Courts.
- Representing a major **Russian** client in an action for damages before the European Courts alleging illegal imposition of **anti-dumping** duties whilst a cartel was operating in Europe.
- Successfully representing several Indian **stainless steel** manufacturers before the EU General Court in challenging the legality of EU **antidumping** and **countervailing duties** imposed on EU imports of Indian stainless steel bars.

## Amicable solutions

Members of our team are also trainers on (innovative) dispute resolution techniques and very familiar with efficient tools that allow to best to address particular conflict scenarios. This enables our team to make a conflict diagnosis for each conflict, followed by an identification of those tools that would be best placed to obtain an outcome that entails maximum business sense. Not seldom our team will therefore advise to use mediation, conciliation, dispute review board, partnering, confidential listening, mini trial, collaborative law and other techniques to reach better outcomes. This approach has been much welcomed by clients and has contributed to numerous opportunities for business growth.

### Our recent experience includes:

- Guiding **diplomats** and **diplomatic missions** towards best solutions that offset spill-over effects whilst optimizing relationships.
- Applying collaborative law techniques in a dispute relating to **EU grants**.
- Preparing a group of franchisees in the **fast-food** sector for an interest-driven negotiation with their franchisor.
- Preparing **retail** operators for difficult negotiations with their distributor.
- Identifying and implementing the proper expert determination mechanism to handle a **management buy-out** issue.
- Mediating a conflict between shareholders of an international **telecom** operator.
- Mediating a complex matter involving potential **Brexit consequences**.

## MAIN CONTACTS



**Johan Billiet**  
[info@billiet-co.be](mailto:info@billiet-co.be)

Johan is the founder of Billiet & Co and has over 40 years of experience in complex litigation, arbitration and Belgian commercial law at the Brussels Bar. He is admitted with the Belgian Supreme Court (*Cour de Cassation*) for criminal cases. He is the Chairman of the International Arbitration Court under the European Arbitration Chamber, the founder of the Association for International Arbitration, and the author of numerous books and articles. He lectures investment arbitration, dispute resolution and comparative arbitration at the Faculty of Law and Criminology of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. He obtained a masters in maritime law at Antwerp University and previously lectured financial law and corporate restructuring at EHSAL. He is a bankruptcy liquidator and a deputy judge. Johan works in French, English and Dutch.



**Dr. Dilyara Nigmatullina**  
[dilyara.nigmatullina@billiet-co.be](mailto:dilyara.nigmatullina@billiet-co.be)

Dilyara is an arbitration and mediation consultant. She obtained an LL.M. in International Commercial Arbitration Law from Stockholm University and a PhD degree in international dispute resolution from the University of Western Australia. She specialises in international dispute resolution and has experience acting as an arbitrator and mediator. Dilyara also holds a position of a Supernumerary Academic Staff at the Law Faculty of the University of Antwerp. She works in Russian, English, Dutch and Spanish.



**Dr. Konstantinos Adamantopoulos**  
[konstantinos.adamantopoulos@billiet-co.be](mailto:konstantinos.adamantopoulos@billiet-co.be)

Konstantinos is an Attorney at Law and member of both the Brussels and Athens Bars. He specialises in EU competition, EU regulatory, trade, State aid and has extensive experience in litigation, representing governments and corporate entities before the European Commission, the Court of Justice and the General Court of the European Union, as well as in dispute settlement proceedings before WTO institutions. He has been the managing partner of major UK law firms and works in German, French, Greek and English.



**Maarten Bentein**

[maarten.bentein@billiet-co.be](mailto:maarten.bentein@billiet-co.be)

Maarten is an Attorney at Law and member of the Brussels bar. His areas of expertise include litigation, commercial insolvency law, bankruptcies and alternative dispute resolution. He provides legal services for expats and international companies in Belgium and has a special interest in the Spanish market. Maarten is a bankruptcy liquidator and is frequently appointed as an arbitrator in commercial disputes. He works in Dutch, English, French and Spanish.



**Philippe Billiet**

[philippe.billiet@billiet-co.be](mailto:philippe.billiet@billiet-co.be)

Philippe is an Attorney at Law and member of the Brussels Bar. He obtained his LL.M. in International Economic Law at the University of Warwick and lectures conflict resolution tools and strategies at Brussels VUB University. Philippe was one of the first mediators to obtain the EMTPJ (European Mediation Training for Practitioners of Justice) certification and frequently intervenes in matters that have a diplomatic dimension. He is vice-president of the *chambre d'arbitrage d'experts*, is a registered arbitrator with numerous institutions worldwide and is member of the advisory board to the Brussels Diplomatic Academy. He works in Dutch, French, English, speaks German and has notions of Polish.



**Vladimir Lincautan**

[vladimir.lincautan@billiet-co.be](mailto:vladimir.lincautan@billiet-co.be)

Vladimir is an Attorney at Law and member of the Brussels Bar. He frequently intervenes in complex corporate and international trade transactions and has extensive experience in handling high-value, complex, multi-party, multi-jurisdictional disputes in CIS and EU jurisdictions. He works in Dutch, French, English, Russian, Ukrainian and Romanian.