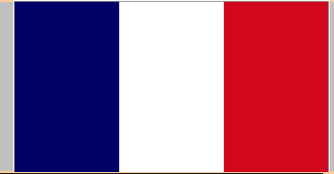


France



PLG Member Firms

Lmt Avocats, Paris
Lamy Lexel, Lyon



Lmt Avocats is an independent business law firm based in Paris and employing 50 lawyers and staff led by 12 partners. Founded in 1991, our firm has continuously assisted and represented numerous foreign clients in their activities across France and Europe as well as French clients in their cross-border business transactions.

Thanks to our combined skills and experience in the various areas of expertise of business law, to the international culture brought to the law firm by its founders, and to our knowledge of the business environment, we can meet our clients' expectations in the various fields of business law, providing day-to-day legal advice and conducting judicial and arbitral litigation.

Our integrated organization guarantees high quality professional services. Client satisfaction is ensured by setting up the working teams suited to each case, led by the partners who remain heavily involved at all stages, and by maintaining a personalized contact between the clients and the firm's lawyers.

We are men and women sharing common values - respect and straightforwardness, conviviality and self-realization - and a strong team spirit. Both we and our clients believe this plays an important role in the satisfaction of their needs.

Christian Connor
cc Connor@lmtavocats.com

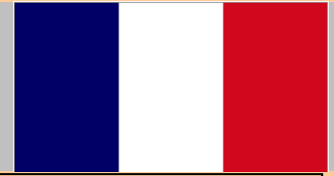
Antoine Lemétais
alemetais@lmtavocats.com

Jean-Christophe Guy
jcguy@lmtavocats.com

www.lmtavocats.com

rue Beaujon 5
75008 Paris
Tel. +33 | 53 81 53 00 – Fax +33 | 53 81 53 30

France



PLG Member Firms

Lamy Lexel, Lyon
Lmt Avocats, Paris



Lamy Lexel was created in 1998 by the merger of two major French law firms: Lamy Avocats Associés, a Paris based law firm founded at the end of the 19th century, and Lexel Conseil, a law firm created in 1919 and well established in the Rhône-Alpes region. Lamy Lexel has now become one of France's major independent law firms - with offices in Paris and Lyon – with around 80 lawyers.

Lamy Lexel lawyers are dynamic, almost all bilingual and work closely with their clients. They have a keen understanding of business life, good knowledge of economics (degrees in business and law) and a strong level of involvement. Every day, they demonstrate their ability to work in a team of professionals specialised in different fields of law. Lamy Lexel can assist its clients in the main areas of business law: from the company's creation to its sale, from its initial public offering to its merger or acquisition. Its legal professionals get involved in projects upstream, adapting them to economic trends, such as globalisation, tax planning and new regulations governing competition. They can also guide you through difficult times: litigation, restructuring, settlements, labour conflicts and insolvency/bankruptcy. For this purpose, Lamy Lexel has structured its practice into five main operating departments: Business Law, Tax Law, Labour Law, Public and Real Estate Law, and Litigation, Arbitration, Mediation.

With a human-sized, service-oriented practice, Lamy Lexel provides expert advice with strong operational involvement, combining creativity, responsiveness, pragmatism, transparency and a culture of results.

André Gast
agast@lamy-lexel.com

Aurélien Dantzikian
adantzikian@lamy-lexel.com

www.lamy-lexel.com

cours Lafayette 91
69006 Lyon
Tel. +33 4 72 74 53 00 – Fax +33 4 78 52 26 00

France



Country Facts

Legal Facts :

Constitution: the current French Constitution, the supreme law of the country, comprises the 1958 Constitution, its Preamble (which refers to the 1789 Rights of Man and principles of national sovereignty) and the Preamble of the 1946 constitution.

Legal system: France derives its legal system from the civil law tradition. Much greater emphasis is placed on codified law, the many codes, rather than on case law and precedent as in common law jurisdictions.

Geographical Facts :

Area: total: 551 500 km² (675 417 km² with off-shores territories), *Land:* 1 877 km², *Water:* 549,623 km²

Natural resources (world-ranking): Sugar Beets (1) - Apples (3) - Cereals (4) - Barley (4) - Corn (5) - Apricots (5) - Potatoes (10) - Wood (16) - Milk (3) - Honey (6) - Potash (14) - Uranium (18) - Bauxite (20) - Lignite (21) - Coal (28) - Pigs (11) - Cows (14) - Sheep (25)

Demographic Facts :

Population: 65,447,374

Languages: French (official)

Government: Republic

Administrative divisions: 22 areas – Alsace, Aquitaine, Auvergne, Basse-Normandie, Bourgogne, Bretagne, Centre, Champagne-Ardenne, Corse, Franche-Comté, Haute-Normandie, Île-de-France, Languedoc-Roussillon, Limousin, Lorraine, Midi-Pyrénées, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Pays de la Loire, Picardie, Poitou-Charentes, Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, Rhône-Alpes and 100 sub-areas.

Economical Facts :

GDP: \$2.133 billion (2009 est.)

Unemployment rate: 9.5 % (2009 est.)

Exports: € 349,515 billion f.o.b. (2009 est.)

Exports partners: Germany (15 %), Italy (9 %), Spain (8.5 %)

Imports: € 393,452 billion f.o.b. (2009 est.)

Imports partners: Germany (16%), Belgium (8.5 %), Italy (8%), (2009 est.)

Taxation :

French corporations are generally subject to corporate income tax at a standard rate of 33.3%.

Dividends received by a French company from other companies in which it holds a minimum 5% shareholding are almost exempt of corporate income tax, which makes France an attractive country for locating a holding company with subsidiaries throughout Europe.

Individuals are subject to personal income tax on a worldwide basis if they are French residents. Non residents are subject to income tax in France only on their French source income (such as salaries for employment in France or rents received in connection with real estate located in France).

Value added tax (usual rate 19.6%) applies to imports and sales of goods and services in France. It is paid by the companies but finally borne by the consumer.

Links of interest:

www.insee.fr National database, europa.eu/ Gateway to the European Union, www.elysee.fr/ Presidency of the French Republic, www.premier-ministre.gouv.fr/fr/ Prime Minister, www.assemblee-nationale.fr/ National Assembly www.senat.fr/ Senate