



PRESS RELEASE
JANUARY 22, 2018

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK GBL ALLIANCE REACHES 22 MEMBERS IN JUST 12 MONTHS AND PLANS FOR FURTHER GROWTH IN 2018

Launched in January 2017 with 9 member firms, the global business lawyer network, GBL Alliance (www.gbl-alliance.com), has more than doubled to now include 22 member firms and 2 best friend firms, representing 42 jurisdictions. In just 12 months, the network has had an impressive roster of transactions, including a recent role advising on the global employment law aspects of a major European merger.

Positioned as a “new breed” international legal network focused on delivering value added and cost-competitive global legal services, GBL Alliance has more than doubled since its launch just a year ago and has a current headcount of over 600 business lawyers worldwide. Its hands-on and straightforward approach to business law has fueled its success in attracting new members and clients with cross-border work.

As evidence of its success, in 2017 GBL Alliance advised on a major European merger of two global leaders in the transportation sector. Requiring a quick turnaround, in just one week the network mobilized 32 jurisdictions to advise on sensitive industrial relations and employment law issues prior to the announcement of the merger.

Further evidence of the network’s success are the additions of new members. Following its inaugural conference in March 2017, the network expanded to include Benin, Croatia, Greece, Ivory Coast and Sweden, followed by Belgium, Luxembourg and Russia two months later. Following its second conference last October, GBL Alliance further grew to include firms from Austria, Lithuania, Morocco and Switzerland.

In line with its no-frills and client-centric approach, GBL Alliance’s upcoming Spring 2018 conference in Frankfurt will focus on “business generation” and effectively channeling the opportunities that lie ahead. Potential new members from other jurisdictions, particularly Asia, have confirmed attendance.

In addition to integrating new members from Asia and the Americas in 2018, GBL also expects to grow its activity in Africa where it already has a significant presence in 18 countries on the continent.

“I am very excited to be a part of this growing network and to offer a viable alternative to using a large global firm, says Thomas Fernandez-Boni, the President of GBL Alliance and partner at Vaughan Avocats (France). Our network sets itself apart from other networks because our focus is on clients and not just members. We encourage a client mindset and are very conscious of developing ways to add value to our client’s businesses and serve them efficiently in other jurisdictions.”

GBL Alliance facts:

- GBL Alliance includes over 600 business lawyers from 22 member firms and 2 “best friend” firms based in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.
- GBL Alliance covers 42 **jurisdictions** and has 19 working languages: English, Arabic, Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch, Estonian, Flemish, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Slovak, Swedish and Turkish.
- GBL Alliance advises on all areas of business law, including mergers and acquisitions, corporate and commercial, restructuring, distribution, IP, litigation, real estate, employment, and related tax law matters.
- GBL Alliance has its own website (www.gbl-alliance.com) and operates as a French association (for administrative reasons). GBL Alliance is governed by the GBL Alliance Board which includes a President, a Vice President and representatives from member firms.

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