



Horst Ehardt

Partner

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Corporate / M&A

Private Equity

Venture Capital & Start-ups

Energy

Insolvency & Restructuring

Law done right.

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Horst Ehardt has an excellent ability to coordinate large legal teams across several jurisdictions in a complex M&A deal and, at the same time, follow legal details in several work streams.

– Chambers & Partners Global

About

Horst Ehardt co-heads the firm-wide Corporate/M&A team. He specialises in complex cross-border transactions in the fields of M&A, privatisation and restructuring in Austria and throughout the CEE/SEE region. He has also been advising companies from a broad range of industries - with a particular focus on financial institutions, life sciences and private equity - on corporate finance and governance matters.

Having worked on about 80 transactions as lead attorney over the last 10 years (including several transactions involving a value of more than EUR 1 billion), Horst offers a wide range of experience concerning legal and tax aspects in connection with complex cross-border transactions, combined with a thorough understanding of clients' needs from a business perspective. He has been in private practice for 25 years focusing on corporate law and M&A.

Horst holds a Doctor of Law degree from Graz University Law School and an LL.M. from the London School of Economics. Horst is admitted to the bar in both Austria and the Czech Republic and teaches an M&A programme at the law school of the University of Vienna.

Wolf Theiss

Latest rankings

Tier #2 - Corporate/M&A
Chambers & Partners Europe,
2023

Tier #2 - Corporate/M&A
Chambers & Partners Global,
2023

Market Leader - Mergers &
Acquisitions
IFLR1000, 2023

Recent work highlights

- Advising Czech-based Agrofert on the acquisition of Borealis' nitrogen business. The offer valued the business on an enterprise value basis at EUR 810 million.
- Advising the Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) on the EUR 830 million acquisition of Aegon's insurance business in Hungary, Poland, Romania and Turkey. We advised on all legal and regulatory aspects of the transaction, finalising and signing the transaction documentation in 24 hours. We have also handled the competition law clearance, regulatory approvals, as well as foreign direct investment (FDI) clearance.
- Advising the Austrian State Holding Company ÖBAG on the extension of its partnership with América Móvil concerning Telekom Austria, Austria's leading telecom provider. The shareholder agreement entered into by major shareholders of Telekom Austria is for a term of ten years. As part of the renew shareholders' agreement, OBAG and América Móvil agreed that the Telekom towers will be spun off into a separate company guaranteeing shareholder rights in Austria and several other countries in Central Europe.
- Advising BNP Paribas on the sale of its personal finance business to Eurobank in Bulgaria, and on the sale of of its Hungarian subsidiary Magyar Cetelem Bank Zrt. to Cofidis, the consumer credit and personal loans subsidiary of banking group Credit Mutuel.
- Advising Cellnex on its largest-ever acquisition, the EUR 10 billion purchase of CK Hutchison's passive network infrastructure, a transaction involving Austria, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland and the UK. We assisted on all legal, regulatory and stamp duty aspects of the transaction in Austria. Through our advice, the client saved a significant amount of Austrian stamp duty related to the amendment of the lease agreement concerning the broadcasting infrastructure.
- Advising Microsoft Corporation with regard to the foreign direct investment clearance in Austria for the acquisition of Nuance Communications, a leader in conversational AI and ambient intelligence across industries including healthcare, financial services, retail and telecommunications, for approx. USD 20 billion (therefore being the 2nd largest acquisition in Microsoft's history, according to media).
- Advising Brookfield Business Partners on the USD 5,8 billion acquisition, including about USD 2.6 billion of equity, of Scientific Games' global lotteries business.