

## **Wolf Theiss facilitates Allianz Bank Bulgaria's Strategic Partnership with European Investment Bank Group, Boosting SME Lending Capacity**

**Sofia, 22 March 2024 – Wolf Theiss provided support to Allianz Bank Bulgaria in the review, negotiations and regulatory compliance of a Synthetic Securitization Agreement with the European Investment Bank Group. The execution of the agreement was announced by EIF, EIB and Allianz Bank Bulgaria at the end of February 2024. This arrangement allows Allianz Bank to free up 291 million euro (\$315.9 million) in financing for Bulgarian small and medium-sized enterprises and mid-cap companies with a focus on transitioning to climate neutrality, while continuing to maintain its leading market position.**

The European Investment Fund offers a layer of protection through a junior tranche worth EUR 29 million, with a counter-guarantee from the EIB, and a senior tranche exceeding EUR 175 million, secured solely by the EIF. The covered portfolio includes consumer loans, as well as loans and leases to SMEs, with total commitments of approximately EUR 207 million.

Partner Katerina Kraeva, who led the Wolf Theiss team, commented: *"We're delighted that Allianz Bank Bulgaria has entrusted us with this novel instrument. This is a testament to our expertise in complex financial instruments and our growing experience in the Bulgarian market with Synthetic Securitizations, having advised other Bulgarian banks on similar projects. We're proud to assist Bulgarian financial institutions in leveraging the advantages of this product."*

Clifford Chance acted as an international advisor for Allianz Bank Bulgaria.

### **About Wolf Theiss**

Founded in 1957, Wolf Theiss is one of the leading law firms in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe (CEE/SEE). We have built our reputation on unrivalled local knowledge which is supported by strong international capabilities. With 390 lawyers in 13 countries, over 80% of the firm's work involves cross-border representation of international clients.

#### **Wolf Theiss**

Rechtsanwälte GmbH & Co KG  
Schubertring 6  
1010 Vienna  
Austria

T +43 1 515 10  
F +43 1 515 10 25  
E [wien@wolftheiss.com](mailto:wien@wolftheiss.com)

UID: ATU 68242500  
ADVM: P130664; FN 403377 b  
FG: HG Vienna; Seat: Vienna

# Wolf Theiss

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For further information please contact:

### **Wolf Theiss PR Team**

Wolf Theiss Rechtsanwälte  
Attorneys-at-Law  
Schubertring 6  
A-1010 Wien  
Austria

**T** +43 1 51510 00  
**E** [pr@wolftheiss.com](mailto:pr@wolftheiss.com)  
**W** [wolftheiss.com](http://wolftheiss.com)

