



THE EURO ELITE METHODOLOGY

Legal Business' Euro Elite comprises independent law firms based in more than 40 European jurisdictions, rather than the local offices of international firms.

To compile the 100 firms featured in this report *Legal Business* analysed more than 150 of the largest law firms in Europe by the number of lawyers, as well as more than 150 of the top-ranking firms in the current edition of *The Legal 500 EMEA*. A combined score was given for the size of the firm and its *The Legal 500* rankings, providing a qualitative as well as a quantitative analysis. The 100 firms with the highest combined score make the Euro Elite.

The 100 firms that appear in the main table (see page 56-57) are listed alphabetically within 12 regions: Baltics; Benelux; CEE; France; Germany; Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and the Balkans; Iberia; Ireland; Italy; Nordics; Russia and CIS; and Switzerland.

The firms in the top 25 (see table, page 52) are ranked according to their combined score for size and *Legal 500* rankings.

Scoring for *The Legal 500 EMEA* rankings

Points were allocated for firms ranked in tiers 1-3 in tables featured in the 2016 edition of *The Legal 500 EMEA*. Top-tier rankings earned three points, second tier two and third one point.

Points were given for rankings in key strategic practice areas only: corporate/commercial; banking/finance; disputes; real estate; tax. Corporate/M&A was given extra weighting, so rankings in this category earned a +50% points score. Therefore a top-tier ranking in M&A would score 4.5 points.

Jurisdiction weighting

Points scored for *Legal 500 EMEA* rankings were adjusted depending on the size of the jurisdiction, according to the banding below. Jurisdictions in Band 3 received no mark-up on points, while rankings for countries in Band 1 scored a +75% mark-up. Scores in countries in Band 2 received a +50% mark-up. Those in Band 4 received a -25% mark down.

Band 1

Germany

Band 2

France, Italy, Spain

Band 3

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey

Band 4

Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Therefore, for example, a tier-one ranking in Germany for M&A, real estate and banking would score a total of 18 points, while the same rankings in those practice areas in the Ukraine would receive seven points.