

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR



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Kettani Law Firm (hereafter “KLF”) is a major Moroccan business law firm founded in 1971 by Professor Azzedine Kettani who was admitted to practice as a lawyer in 1968 and is approved by the High Court of Justice of the Kingdom of Morocco. He was joined in 1992 by Nadia Kettani, who is the Head of the International Consulting Department; and Rita Kettani in 1993, who is the Head of the Commercial Department, the Litigation Department and the Labour Law Department.

KLF is an acknowledged leader in the field of M&A transactions. Areas of particular expertise include stock exchange law, aviation law, telecommunications regulations, energy, tourism, labour law, intellectual property, audits and IPOs.

KLF has handled a number of high profile M&A projects for its clients around the world. These include advising France Télécom as a potential buyer of Maroc Télécom, the national telecommunications operator, for US\$2.3 billion; and Telefónica's bid of US\$1.1 billion for the acquisition of the second GSM line. The firm recently acted as adviser in the following cases: a major British company in the acquisition of the Moroccan state-owned tobacco company Régie des Tabacs for approximately EUR1.3 billion; the merger between two major American computer companies; and the merger between two international confectionary companies.

KLF has handled a significant number of major M&A projects some of which include the restructuring of HP, the acquisition by Coca-Cola of Moroccan companies. The substantial merger of the Moroccan refinery Samir with SCP was also handled by the firm. KLF advised local banks for the financing of the acquisition by Altadis of 80% of

“Kettani Law Firm covers the whole spectrum of financial and business activities, and is an acknowledged leader in the fields of corporate finance, banking, project finance, corporate and commercial law. Areas of particular expertise include stock exchange law, aviation law, telecommunications regulations, energy, tourism, labour law, intellectual property, audits and IPOs.”

Régie des Tabacs for EUR300 million and Lydec (a subsidiary of Suez) for the outsourcing of its pension scheme for EUR250 million, EUR100 million of which was through a limited recourse bond issue. KLF advised local banks for the financing of the acquisition by a subsidiary of Vivendi of 16% of Maroc Telecom for EUR500 million. KLF has advised Roche SA for the sale of its pharmaceutical business to Bayer.

In 2010, KLF has advised in financing and project financing such as France Telecom Orange in the 40% purchase of Meditelecom, Morocco's second largest telecommunication operator (Eur 640 million).

In 2012, KLF advised Sika and Solware for their mergers.

In 2013, KLF is notably advising to Vivendi for the sale of its participation in Maroc Telecom.