



HERBERT
SMITH
FREEHILLS



LODE VAN DEN HENDE

PARTNER

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Lode is an EU and international trade law lawyer with over 20 years' experience.

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KEY SERVICES

Global Advocacy
Competition, Regulation and Trade

KEY SECTORS

Consumer
Energy

EXPERIENCE

Lode adds value for clients through his expertise and practical insight in a number of areas including EU State aid law, EU regulation and related EU court litigation and international trade law. In these areas he works with commercial and sovereign clients on litigious as well as transactional matters. Clients have praised him for his "*high-quality advice*" as well as his "*strong client relationship management*" (*Legal 500 EMEA 2014*).

In EU State aid law Lode has worked with governments granting aid, investors receiving aid as well as complainants seeking to challenge aid.

In EU regulation and litigation Lode can draw on his experience gained as a Member State representative in EU Treaty negotiations. He has also litigated some 30 cases in the EU courts.

In international trade, Lode first appeared on behalf of a sovereign client in a WTO dispute settlement hearing in 1997 and has since then worked on a number of WTO proceedings concerning trade in services, subsidies and the protection of IP. Lode also helps clients navigate through the complex web of free trade agreements that exists today.

In each of his areas Lode is ranked by legal directories, who describe him as having an "*encyclopaedic knowledge*" of the law but also as "*extremely user-friendly*" and as someone who "*thinks outside the box and understands his clients*" (*Chambers Europe 2012 and Legal 500 EMEA, 2015 and 2014*).

Lode is a co-author of the State aids division of the *Butterworths Competition Law Service*, a leading practitioners' publication.

Lode's experience includes advising:

- A number of major companies on the European Commission's State aid investigations of tax planning practices of multinationals
- Advising a significant number large low carbon electricity projects on EU State aid approval (including three Phase II European Commission investigations with a positive result)
- TUI AG, British Airways, easyJet and IATA on litigation in the European Court of Justice in relation to the EU Regulation concerning passenger rights
- Gazprom Neft in two cases before the European General Court challenging EU trade and financial sanctions
- The Government of Antigua and Barbuda in its successful WTO claim against the US concerning market access for electronic gambling and betting services.