

**Press Release:      KSLEX represents DPD Systemlogistik in dispute with La Poste – shareholder dispute settled by acquisition of DPD Systemlogistik**

**Munich, March 31, 2015** – KSLEX represented DPD Systemlogistik GmbH & Co. KG, a CEP (courier express parcels) service provider belonging to the GLS group, in a long lasting corporate and franchise dispute with the GeoPost group. GeoPost belongs to the French La Poste and is majority shareholder of DPD, a leading parcel service provider in Europe. GLS, a competitor of DPD, is a subgroup of the British Royal Mail.

The dispute has been litigated since 2012 and traces back to the year 2000 in which GLS acquired with DPD Systemlogistik a 10% shareholding in DPD from the Dachser group. At the time KSLEX founding partner Jörg Kretschmer represented as then partner of Beiten Burkhardt the vendor Dachser, while the acquirer GLS was represented by Linklaters. Subsequently, due to the competitive situation between DPD, which is organized as a franchise system, and GLS increasingly differences developed both on the shareholder and the franchise level.

The differences led to DPD Systemlogistik being excluded as shareholder from DPD and the franchise agreement being terminated for cause. The shareholder dispute was litigated before an *ad-hoc* arbitral tribunal, the Regional Court Aschaffenburg, the Regional Court Landshut and the Court of Appeal Munich. In these proceedings DPD Systemlogistik was comprehensively represented by KSLEX (Dr. Jörg Kretschmer, litigation, corporate law; Frank Schmeisser, litigation, franchise law; Christoph Müller, associate, procedural law and corporate law). Antitrust issues were dealt with by Philipp Cotta from Beiten Burkhardt. Kretschmer and Cotta know each other since their years together at Beiten Burkhardt. DPD and majority shareholder GeoPost were represented by Jones Day (Frankfurt).

As of today the shareholder dispute has been settled. GeoPost acquired DPD Systemlogistik with effect as of today. In connection with the disposal GLS was again represented by Linklaters and by KSLEX selectively as to the aspects resulting from the shareholders' dispute. The acquirer GeoPost was represented once more by Jones Day (Frankfurt).

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