GCR

Netherlands

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Elite

A&O SHEARMAN's Dutch antitrust practice is led by Kees Schillemans, who is joined by fellow partner Pieter Huizing, one counsel and 14 associates. The team's position is defined by its role coordinating strategically significant regulatory reviews across major Dutch, European and global transactions. The firm represented KPN in the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM) review of Glaspoort's proposed acquisition of part of DELTA Fiber's fibre-optic network, which was prohibited in June 2026 following a Phase II investigation. The firm advised DPG Media on its acquisition of RTL Nederland, which received conditional ACM clearance following an in-depth Phase II review. Elsewhere, the team acts as global antitrust counsel to Wendel on the €2.1 billion sale of Stahl Group to Henkel, which is undergoing merger review in multiple jurisdictions, including a European Commission investigation and Phase II proceedings in China. The firm is also assisting Randstad with the €160 million sale of its Technology and Consulting Services business in Europe and Australia to LTM, requiring competition and foreign investment approvals across several jurisdictions.

Headed by Jolling de Pree, **DE BRAUW BLACKSTONE WESTBROEK's** competition practice comprises 5 fellow partners, two counsel and 30 associates. The sizeable practice combines deep Dutch competition expertise with a notably international team, making it a frequent choice for complex cross-border mandates. Acting as global lead adviser to AkzoNobel, the firm is coordinating merger control, foreign investment and foreign subsidies reviews for its proposed US$25 billion merger of equals with Axalta. The team also represented Just Eat Takeaway.com on Prosus's €4.1 billion acquisition, securing conditional Phase I clearance from the European Commission in one of the largest deals in the Dutch market during 2025. In another key mandate, the firm advised FrieslandCampina on its merger with Milcobel, obtaining unconditional Phase I clearance from the European Commission, alongside foreign subsidies and foreign investment approvals, despite calls for Phase II review. De Brauw continues to advise Booking.com on a range of competition and digital regulation mandates, having previously successfully defended the company's Genius programme. Meanwhile, the team represents Celanese in follow-on damages litigation in the Netherlands and Germany arising from the European Commission's ethylene purchasing cartel settlement, with claims reportedly totalling around €10 billion.

FRESHFIELDS' Dutch competition practice is co-chaired by partners Winfred Knibbeler and Paul van den Berg, who work together with two additional partners and 13 associates. The firm advised Universal Music Group on the global merger control aspects of its US$775 million acquisition of Downtown Music Holdings, which received European Commission approval in February 2026 following a Phase II investigation. Freshfields continues to advise Meta on its obligations under the Digital Markets Act, including successfully overturning the European Commission's designation of Facebook Marketplace as a core platform service in the first successful challenge to a DMA designation decision. The team is also leading Meta's appeal against the European Commission's decision concerning its ad-free subscription model for Facebook and Instagram. Apple has entrusted the practice with multiple challenges to the European Commission's implementation of the Digital Markets Act, including six pending actions before the EU General Court relating to gatekeeper designations, interoperability requirements and alleged anti-steering violations. Freshfields also coordinates AB Volvo's defence strategy in more than 3,000 follow-on claims arising from the European Commission's Trucks decision, including proceedings before the Dutch courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

STIBBE's competition practice is co-headed by Rein Wesseling and Jeroen Kortmann, supported by a wider team comprising three fellow partners, two counsel and more than 20 associates. One of the largest integrated EU and national competition law groups in the Netherlands, the firm is also a frequent choice for foreign direct investment matters involving leading US and UK law firms. The team advises Viatris in its challenge to the European Commission's €462.6 million decision against Teva concerning the multiple sclerosis drug Copaxone. Acting as coordinating counsel, Stibbe also represents dsm-Firmenich in a global cartel investigation into suspected collusion in the fragrance sector, coordinating defence efforts across proceedings in the EU, UK and Switzerland. The practice continues to defend Apple in an ACM abuse of dominance investigation relating to App Store conditions, as well as in a Dutch opt-out class action. Another significant mandate sees the firm represent British American Tobacco in its challenge to a Belgian cartel fine, following a successful appeal before the Belgian Supreme Court and the case's referral back to the Market Court. Stibbe also acts for Rabobank in its appeal against a €26.6 million European Commission fine relating to alleged collusion in the euro-denominated bonds market.

Highly Recommended

BARENTSKRANS' competition practice is led by Joost Fanoy, who is joined by fellow partner Tim Raats, one counsel and three associates. Client feedback highlights the firm's engagement with regulatory authorities as a “standout impression”, praising its "proactive approach… actively pursuing matters with the Dutch authorities and keeping us informed of relevant steps". The team represents Interovo Egg Group in appeals and related damages proceedings arising from an

ACM investigation into alleged anticompetitive conduct in the egg sector. BarentsKrans also acts for OMV and Borealis in follow-on damages litigation stemming from the European Commission's Ethylene decision, with claims exceeding €1 billion before the Amsterdam courts. In another mandate, the firm represents Macedonian Thrace Brewery in its damages action against Heineken and Athenian Brewery, having secured rulings establishing both Heineken's liability and the Dutch courts' jurisdiction, with damages of at least €43 million awarded before interest. The practice additionally advises KPN in litigation following its acquisition of Youfone, including proceedings challenging the ACM's clearance decision and related abuse of dominance complaints.

Under the leadership of Pepijn van Ginneken, **BRINKHOF's** competition practice includes fellow partner Quinten Kroes, one counsel and nine associates. The team acts across the full spectrum of competition litigation, representing both claimants and defendants in high-profile disputes. Brinkhof represents Google in a major abuse of dominance claim concerning its advertising technology business, involving allegations that the company favoured its own publishing platform and claims spanning the EEA. The practice also acts for Heineken in follow-on damages litigation arising from the Trucks cartel, covering alleged losses across 18 EU jurisdictions and prompting preliminary questions to the Dutch Supreme Court. FedEx has likewise turned to the team for representation in damages proceedings linked to the Trucks and Air Cargo cartels, involving multi-jurisdictional claims before the Dutch courts. Another engagement sees Brinkhof advise Spotta in proceedings concerning its unsolicited mail delivery business, having secured a favourable ACM decision that is now under appeal.

BUREAU BRANDEIS' competition practice is headed by sole partner Bas Braeken, who works with five associates. The firm's combination of competition expertise and a wider mass-claimant litigation practice has helped it establish a notable presence in Dutch private enforcement and collective redress proceedings. The team represents Stichting Consumer Justice in a class action against Apple concerning alleged anticompetitive conduct relating to the App Store, with the Amsterdam District Court assuming jurisdiction over claims brought on behalf of Dutch consumers following a landmark CJEU ruling. It also acts for the same foundation in a multibillion-euro class action against the Netherlands' largest energy suppliers, alleging unlawful coordination in the use of price adjustment clauses. Additionally, the practice continues to represent TicketSwap in proceedings challenging the ACM's commitments decision in its investigation into Ticketmaster's resale restrictions for mobile event tickets. It also successfully defended virtual tour operators Dé VakantieDiscounter, Prijsvrij and D-Reizen in ACM enforcement proceedings, resulting in the withdrawal of the authority's penalty decisions.

At **GERADIN PARTNERS**, Ruben Elkerbout heads the competition practice, working alongside fellow partner Stijn Huijts, one counsel and four associates. The practice combines claimant and defence-side work across both private enforcement litigation

and regulatory proceedings. The firm represents LitFin in damages claims exceeding €1 billion on behalf of 10 European comparison shopping services against Google, arising from the European Commission's €2.42 billion Google Shopping decision. The team also acts for LitFin in a €700 million follow-on claim against Google on behalf of 20 European media companies relating to alleged abuses in the ad tech market. In addition, the firm represents Greyfield Capital in a €2.1 billion damages action brought on behalf of 34 European news publishers against Google, making it one of the largest ad tech claims before the Dutch courts. Elsewhere, the practice advises Global Food Group in proceedings challenging ACM fines imposed in connection with an alleged agricultural purchasing cartel, while also defending related follow-on damages claims.

LOYENS & LOEFF's competition practice is led by sole partner Marc Wiggers, who is supported by 11 associates, including a notably experienced senior bench with several lawyers bringing more than a decade of competition law experience. The firm represented DPG Media in the ACM's Phase II review of its acquisition of RTL Nederland, which received conditional clearance in June 2025. The team also secured ACM approval for Rabobank's acquisition of ABN AMRO's personal loans business in June 2026. Another recent mandate saw the practice represent Pon in securing clearance for its acquisitions of Greenwheels and Check Technologies, strengthening the mobility group's position in car-sharing and micro-mobility services. The firm also advises bol in the ACM's ongoing investigation into alleged abuse of dominance relating to its online marketplace platform.

One of the Netherlands' few competition law boutiques, **MAVERICK ADVOCATEN** is co-headed by Diederik Schrijvershof, Martijn van de Hel and Cyriel Ruers, who are backed by 1 counsel and 8 associates. Partner van de Hel is praised among clients for bringing "a rare depth of commitment that sets him apart from any other lawyer". The team represents Strukton in the European Commission's investigation into alleged anticompetitive conduct in the synthetic turf sector, one of the few ongoing cartel investigations involving the Netherlands. Maverick is also assisting Zwanenberg Food Group with its acquisition of the Unox brand from Unilever, which is undergoing an in-depth Phase II review by the ACM. Another notable engagement sees the firm advise the Dutch Food Industry Federation (FNLI) in the ACM's investigation into grocery pricing and supplier margins in the supermarket sector. The practice also successfully represented Stichting UPV Textiel in an ACM investigation concerning alleged abuse of dominance in the textile recycling market arising from a mandatory sustainability initiative.

Heading **PELS RIJCKEN & DROOGLEEVER FORTUIJN's** competition practice is Sebastiaan Cnossen, who works with four associates. The practice combines a longstanding public-sector client base with a prominent role in cartel damages litigation, acting for both government institutions and private clients on complex competition disputes. The team represents the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management in litigation and regulatory proceedings concerning the award of

a 10-year concession for the Netherlands' main railway network, including pending preliminary questions before the CJEU. The firm also acts for Mercedes-Benz Group and Daimler Truck in more than 65 cartel damages actions before the Dutch courts arising from the European Commission's Trucks decision. Westlake Chemical has also engaged the team in multibillion-euro damages litigation stemming from the European Commission's Ethylene cartel decision. Pels Rijcken additionally advises the Bureau of Direct Foreign Investments on the prohibition of Kyndryl's proposed acquisition of Solvinity, the first transaction blocked under the Dutch telecom foreign direct investment regime.

Led by Sarah Beeston, **VAN DOORNE's** competition practice includes fellow partner Daan Beenders, one counsel and 14 associates. The practice has been involved in several first-of-their-kind competition and regulatory matters, including the ACM's first informal commitments abuse case and the European Commission's first FSR dawn raid. The team represents LG Electronics in its challenge to an ACM decision concerning alleged online price influencing, with preliminary questions currently pending before CJEU. It also acts for Live Nation and Ticketmaster in abuse of dominance proceedings relating to mobile ticket resales, having secured a commitments settlement with the ACM without the imposition of fines. Another longstanding engagement sees the firm represent Nimbus Capital in litigation concerning whether a former parent company can recover losses arising from a cartel fine imposed on a former subsidiary, securing favourable rulings at first instance, on appeal and before the Dutch Supreme Court.

Recommended

BAKER MCKENZIE's Dutch competition practice is co-headed by Frank Kroes and Frans Muller, supported by seven associates. The practice is particularly active at the intersection of merger control, foreign investment screening and trade regulation, advising on transactions that require coordination across multiple regulatory regimes. The team advised KBC Group on the creation of a joint venture with Van Lanschot Kempen covering their equities capital markets activities, guiding the transaction through European Commission merger review. It also secured conditional Phase I ACM clearance for APG Asset Management and TenneT's joint venture with KPN, creating Dutch tower company Althio and bringing together approximately 3,800 telecommunications sites. Another recent engagement saw the firm represent NetApp in sanctions-related litigation against a former distributor, securing dismissal of claims worth approximately €6 million before the Amsterdam District Court, with the appeal ongoing.

BIRD & BIRD's Dutch competition practice is led by Pauline Kuipers, supported by fellow partners Janneke Kohlen and Hein Hobbelen, and five associates. The team represents Mastercard in proceedings before the Dutch courts relating to an ACM decision against American Express under the EU Interchange Fee Regulation, with preliminary questions currently pending before the Court of Justice of the European

Union. The firm also successfully defended telecoms association COIN against allegations of anticompetitive conduct and breaches of telecommunications law, securing dismissal of all claims before The Hague District Court. Bird & Bird additionally advises Odido on a range of competition matters, including its participation in ACM proceedings concerning Glaspoort's proposed acquisition of part of DELTA Fiber's network, which was blocked by the authority in 2026.

Led by sole partner Edmon Oude Elferink, **CMS's** Dutch competition practice comprises six counsel and four associates. One client noted that "they are very experienced and knowledgeable in the area of merger notifications and also in relation to competition dynamics within the automotive industry generally". The team advised REBEL Lease on its acquisitions of Driessen Mobility and MisterGreen, both of which received unconditional ACM Phase I clearance in 2025 and 2026 respectively. CMS also represented Obelink in its acquisition of Van Schijndel, securing unconditional ACM clearance in October 2025. The practice additionally acts for All Nippon Airways in follow-on damages proceedings arising from the Air Cargo cartel, where claimants are seeking up to €750 million before the Amsterdam District Court.

DENTONS' competition practice is headed by Marc Kuijper, who is joined by fellow partners Anouk Rosielle, Bram Braat and Michel Deckers, together with 10 associates. The team's competition practice is particularly litigation-focused, reporting close to €1 billion in antitrust damages awards in recent years while also acting in major cartel and abuse of dominance matters. The firm represents the Federation of Dutch Transport Companies (FMN) and several major rail operators in proceedings challenging the Dutch State's award of a €20 billion rail concession to NS, a dispute that is currently before the CJEU. Dentons also secured a €684 million damages award for Vestel in follow-on litigation arising from the Cathode Ray Tube cartel, the largest antitrust damages award to date in Dutch proceedings, with appeals ongoing. The team continues to represent Gruppo Itautec in related Cathode Ray Tube cartel litigation, having successfully defended a €33 million damages judgment before the Court of Appeal, with further proceedings now pending before the Dutch Supreme Court.

Dr Robert Hardy oversees **GREENBERG TRAURIG's** Dutch competition practice, supported by fellow partners Hans Urlus and Ellen de Jong-van den Bogaard, and one associate. The team advises Acuren on its proposed merger with NV5, creating a combined testing, inspection, certification and engineering services group with approximately US$2 billion in revenue. It also represented Gilde Healthcare in the establishment of an international neuroimaging technology platform through parallel investments in NIRx Medical Technologies and Artinis Medical Systems. The practice additionally acts for MET Group on its acquisition of a 68.5% stake in Mega Group International, securing unconditional European Commission merger clearance.

Leading **LINKLATERS'** Dutch competition practice is Daniella Strik, supported by one counsel and nine associates, alongside an additional nine-lawyer Brussels-based team. The Dutch practice is particularly active in high-value competition damages actions in disputes that often overlap with securities and banking litigation. The firm represents Air France in Dutch follow-on litigation arising from the European Commission's Air Cargo decision, which has generated significant Dutch court rulings on disclosure, applicable law and assignment. Linklaters also acts as Supreme Court counsel to ICAP Europe in class action proceedings concerning the alleged manipulation of JPY Libor. On the transactional side, the team advised Nordic Capital and Conscia on the acquisition of Open Line Holding, securing unconditional Phase I ACM clearance following a multi-jurisdictional review.

Firms	Head(s) of competition	Size	Clients
Elite			
A&O Shearman	Kees Schillemans	2 partners, 1 counsel, 14 associates	KPN, RTL–DPG, Wendel, Randstad, Vanderlande, PostNL, Samsung, Agoda, Scania
De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek	Jolling de Pree	6 partners, 2 counsel, 30 associates	AkzoNobel, Ahold Delhaize, ABN AMRO, Booking.com, FrieslandCampina, Just Eat Takeaway.com, PACCAR / DAF Trucks, British Airways, Celanese, TomTom
Freshfields	Winfred Knibbeler, Paul van den Berg	4 partners, 13 associates	AB InBev, AB Volvo, APG, Apple, Clariant, Compass Group, CPP Investments, Mastercard, Meta, Volkswagen
Stibbe	Rein Wesseling, Jeroen Kortmann	5 partners, 2 counsel, 20+ associates	dsm-Firmenich, Rabobank, UBS, Viatris, Apple, BAT, MAN, Sony Interactive Entertainment, NS, KKR
Highly Recommended			
Barentskrans	Joost Fanoy	2 partners, 1 counsel, 3 associates	Interovo Egg Group, KPN, Celanese et al (Ethylene Cartel) / OMV, Macedonian Thrace Brewery, Equilib, PotatoNext, Wolfson, Dawn Meats, Chapelton, Stichting Elevator Cartel Claim (SECC)
Brinkhof	Pepijn van Ginneken	2 partners, 1 counsel, 9 associates	X (formerly Twitter), Heineken, Toshiba, Google, AB InBev, Diageo, FedEx, Mosadex, Crédit Agricole, Global Steel Wire

Firms	Head(s) of competition	Size	Clients
Bureau Brandeis	Bas Braeken	1 partner, 5 associates	Stichting Consumer Justice, TicketSwap, Elmar Reizen (Dé VakantieDiscounter), Prijsvrij/D-Reizen, NOK.5/Axeco, Fastned, Noordhoff Uitgevers, Transport Logistiek Nederland (TLN), IDH – The Sustainable Trade Initiative, International Dance Organisation (IDO)
Geradin Partners	Ruben Elkerbout	2 partners, 1 counsel, 4 associates	LitFin, Stichting Massaschade & Consument, 34 news media companies including DPG Media, Axel Springer, Prensa Ibérica, Schibsted and Mediahuis, Global Food Group, L'Oréal, Avebe, Corendon, KNVB, easyJet, Coolblue
Loyens & Loeff	Marc Wiggers	1 partner, 1 counsel, 11 associates	DPG Media, bol (Ahold Delhaize), DIF (CVC), Rabobank, Meta, Pon, Blackstone, Phoenix (Brocacef), ZN (Zorgverzekeraars Nederland), Lekkerland
Maverick Advocaten	Diederik Schrijvershof, Martijn van de Hel, Cyriel Ruers	3 partners, 1 counsel, 8 associates	Zwanenberg Food Group, Oranjewoud N.V. (Strukton/Antea), Transavia, Waterland Private Equity Investments, FNLI, Eneco, Farm Frites, Fieten Olie, 123inkt, FincoEnergies
Pels Rijcken & Droogleever Fortuijn	Sebastiaan Cnossen	4 associates	Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Westlake Chemical Corporation, Dutch Competition Authority (ACM), Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate / Bureau of Direct Foreign Investments (BTI), UBS AG, UBS Securities Japan Co. Ltd., Mercedes-Benz Group AG and Daimler Truck AG, Scandinavian Airlines (SAS), ArcelorMittal, NoVA (Dutch association of lawyers)
Van Doorne	Sarah Beeston	2 partners, 1 counsel, 14 associates	TotalEnergies, LG Electronics, Broadcom, Arrive/EasyPark, Live

Firms	Head(s) of competition	Size	Clients
			Nation/Ticketmaster, Paramount Skydance, Domino's Pizza, Eredivisie, Port of Rotterdam, IKEA
Recommended			
Baker McKenzie	Frank Kroes, Frans Muller	2 partners, 7 associates	APG, NetApp, Nouryon, Royal De Heus, Barclays Services Limited, Barclays Bank Plc, Barclays Capital Inc., Shell Chemicals Europe B.V., Nobian, KBC Group, Nordic Capital
Bird & Bird	Pauline Kuipers	3 partners, 5 associates	Mastercard, Vereniging COIN, Odido
CMS	Edmon Oude Elferink	1 partner, 6 counsel, 4 associates	BMW, All Nippon Airways, Coca-Cola European Pacific Partners, Global e-commerce and cloud computing company, Tata Steel, Engie, Ahold Delhaize, Shimano, Pon, a.s.r.
Dentons	Marc Kuijper	4 partners, 10 associates	Federatie Mobiliteitsbedrijven Nederland (FMN), Qbuzz, Arriva et al., Van Gelder, Vestel, Circle K, Gruppo Itautec, Stichting De Glazen Lift, Japan Airlines, Data & Insights Network, Noot Personenvervoer, BP
Greenberg Traurig	Dr. Robert Hardy, LL.M. (Harvard)	3 partners, 1 associate	Acuren, Allianz, CCV Group (Shareholders), Gilde Healthcare, Lion Storage, MET Group, Neptune Energy, Praana Group, Siris Capital, Volkswagen Financial Services
Linklaters	Daniella Strik	1 partner, 1 counsel, 5 associates	AMS Sourcing, Société Air France, ICAP Europe Ltd, Nordic Capital / Conscia, Baker Tilly BE, Carrier