

Sophie Lignier

Independent Contractor

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Sophie Lignier is of counsel with Foley & Lardner LLP and a member of the firm's Government & Public Policy, Antitrust & Competition, and International Practices. She practices European Union (EU) competition/antitrust law and regulatory law in the firm's Brussels office and has been a member of the Brussels Bar since 2003.

As an EU competition lawyer, she has significant experience advising clients in the transport, energy, pharmaceutical, high-tech, and other sectors on a full range of competition issues. In particular, she assists clients in merger control procedure and also acts as a coordinating counsel with respect to multi-jurisdictional merger control filings. She also has broad experience in reviewing business practices to help clients in areas such as distribution, single-firm conduct, strategic cooperation, and other business relationships with competitors, customers, and other industry participants. She also helps clients developing compliance programs and assists companies with their implementation.

She also provides advice on a broad range of EU regulatory issues, ranging from pharmaceutical products, medical devices, chemicals, and the environment including waste end-of-life products (more particularly electrical and electronic equipment under the WEEE directive) to regulatory issues relating to privacy and security. Her work is focused on helping clients to identify and manage the legal requirements that affect their businesses. She provides guidance through the EU decision-making processes and advises clients on the interpretation, application, and enforcement of EU laws and regulations to ensure compliance across all the EU member states.

Sophie is also a member of the Energy Industry Team, working with the team on issues involving the renewable and other energy sectors in Europe and advising clients on a series of ambitious reforms proposed by the European Green Deal.

Representative Experience

- Counsels clients on reportability and compliance matters under the EU merger control rules and coordinates multijurisdictional merger control advice and notification obligations for international transactions.
- Regularly assesses EU antitrust compliance and enforceability of provisions in distribution, licensing, supply, research and development, and other type of commercial agreements and business practices including pricing issues, exclusivity, noncompete, and other restrictive contractual clauses.
- Advises non-EU manufacturers on product safety and CE marking and how to ensure conformity with all relevant EU-wide requirements as well as intermediaries such as retailers on liability for products bearing their name.
- Provides advice on strategy and compliance on EU environmental, social and governance (ESG) regulations, supply chain and sustainability issues, including the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D).
- Guides clients through complex regulatory landscape to ensure compliance with the relevant EU laws and regulations.

Affiliations

- Active contributor, *Annual Review series of Antitrust Law Developments (ALD)*, American Bar Association Antitrust Section.
- Qualified Lawyer (Belgium)

Languages

- French
- English
- Italian
- Dutch

Practice Areas

- [Antitrust & Competition](#)
- [Corporate](#)
- [Europe](#)
- [Government Solutions](#)