

PRESS RELEASE

Amsterdam, 11 March 2010

De Brauw opens Beijing office

De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek today announces the opening of its office in Beijing on the 29th of March. Chinese authorities granted the licence the 1st of March. The office will be headed by partner Geert Potjewijd and associate Rogier van Bijnen.

De Brauw is teaming up with the law firms Slaughter and May (United Kingdom, Hong Kong) and Uría Menéndez (Spain, Portugal, Latin America), whose Beijing offices are located next to De Brauw's. In addition, the Beijing office will work closely together with the leading Chinese law firms. This move is in line with De Brauw's strategy of remaining independent, while co-operating closely with other first tier independent law firms in all important jurisdictions.

The Beijing office fits within De Brauw's long-standing international outlook. It will allow De Brauw to further develop its practice to the benefit of its Chinese and European clients, and to strengthen co-operation with Chinese firms. The Beijing office will assist both Chinese and other Asian clients with investments into Europe, as well as European clients with their investments in China and the rest of Asia.

We believe this approach will prove to be an ideal two-prong combination for European companies investing in China: offering the credentials, knowledge and connections of Chinese law firms that are essential to obtaining results in China, and providing our active project management in line with how our European clients are accustomed to working and thinking.

Commenting on the opening of the Beijing office, Martijn Snoep, De Brauw's Managing Partner, said: "As an independent international law firm we have always had a global view on our law practice. In addition to London and New York, where we already have offices, Beijing is also a very important place to have a local presence. We strongly believe that with this presence we can further improve our services to our Chinese and other Asian clients for investments into Europe. Furthermore, we have seen an enormous increase in our European clients' operations in China and other Asian countries. Opening this office is a logical next step in our international strategy."

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Note for the editor

De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek is an independent law firm with offices in Amsterdam, London, New York and Beijing. De Brauw specialises in providing high-end legal advice in business transactions and commercial litigation. Ever since the firm was founded, in 1871, we have focused on providing top quality legal services and on developing outstanding lawyers.

De Brauw's clients include a large number of leading multinational companies and financial institutions. They trust us to handle their most demanding transactions and legal issues in order to meet their business challenges. We continuously look forward to breaking new ground. Providing our expertise and experience to our clients in all ever-changing markets.

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