

Automotive Group

The background of the page is a solid dark teal color. On the right side, there is a large, abstract graphic composed of several overlapping circles and semi-circles. The colors of these shapes include a light sage green, a pale grey, and a darker teal, creating a layered, organic effect.

## European law firm serious about emissions

Taylor Wessing is a European-based law firm with over 600 lawyers. We have some 30 partners across Belgium, France, Germany, the UK, China and the Middle East who have extensive experience in the automotive industry.

## Our clients

The Automotive Group is currently advising vehicle manufacturers, OEMs, Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers, importers, dealerships and franchisees. In addition, we have acted for transport, materials handling and logistics companies and other businesses with extensive vehicle fleets.

## Forces driving the industry

We understand the major forces acting on the industry and the ways in which it is responding – different business models, new methods of distribution and financing, exploiting new market niches and stretching product ranges to exploit the brand potential of some automobile marques; not least the search to limit climate change by clean technology and new fuel sources. Through our leading climate change practice we understand the emergent clean tech, fuel cell and bio-fuel industry and compliance issues arising from the likely regulatory impact of carbon emission control on the sector.

## A competitive advantage

One constant in the industry is the need to gain competitive advantage through innovation and the need to protect the commercial advantages of technical innovation, branding, styling, know-how and design. Taylor Wessing has an intellectual property practice with a worldwide reputation.

## Structuring and financing your business

- Corporate structures and reorganisations, including joint ventures and strategic alliances as well as dealership structures and regulatory issues
- Transactions such as acquisitions and disposals
- Fund raising – IPO placements, venture capital and debt finance
- Major projects such as manufacturing plant and enhancement facility construction and financing
- Insolvencies and restructurings of dealerships and suppliers

## Running your business

- Distribution and cooperation agreements with dealers, franchisees, enhancers and engineering partners
- Competition, anti-trust advice and trade regulation
- Premises-related work involving showrooms, unit storage facilities and industrial plants
- Planning and environmental advice, including the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and carbon offset schemes
- Leasing, stock and receivables finance
- Employment and collective labour contracts, redundancy programmes, pensions, share schemes and other benefits
- Product liability and consumer protection insurance-related issues, warranties, and pre- and post-sale obligations
- Retention of title issues
- Outsourcing

## Protecting and Exploiting your Intellectual Property

- Patent registrations, prosecutions and enforcements for technical innovations, components and processes
- Developing strategies to protecting key marque design features and styling
- Trademark services including advice on brand stretch for automotive marques into other product categories.

The members of the Automotive Group are drawn from the various disciplines described above. In the first instance, please speak to one of those listed below or your usual contact at Taylor Wessing.

## Selected team members



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