



# Shipping, Transport & International Trade

Trade and transport are two sides of the same coin, and are prime movers of the international economy. London is the capital of world shipping. Hamburg, Germany's largest port and the second largest port in Europe, is at the heart of European activity in the fields of maritime trade and transport. Our specialists in those two cities serve the needs of clients worldwide who are involved in shipping and trade.

The Shipping, Transport & International Trade group of Taylor Wessing has many years' experience in both national and international maritime law, international trade and commodities, shipbuilding, ship finance and multimodal transport law. We advise and represent our clients during contract negotiations and transactions. We emphasise the importance of giving clients early advice on problems so as to avoid or minimise disputes, but if formal proceedings become necessary, we have an established track record in handling conciliation, arbitration and litigation proceedings. To assist with multi-jurisdictional issues, we maintain close personal contact with lawyers and experts based in the world's major ports and shipping centres. At all our offices we have experts with additional, specialist knowledge in related fields of law so that we can offer the expertise appropriate to a full service, international law practice.

Our client base includes owners, charterers, commodity traders, importers and exporters, major shipyards, engine manufacturers,

cruise lines, P&I Clubs, insurance companies, insurance brokers, financial institutions, port operators and logistics companies.

## Shipping Claims

The shipping industry has seen substantial structural changes over the past decades. Much cargo is now containerised and navigation technology has progressed significantly, but increasing vessel size and industry integration have made claims far more complicated than previously. This situation calls for experienced lawyers able to handle highly complex issues and a painstaking approach to the underlying contractual framework. Our proactive approach to the avoidance of claims is recognised by clients who trust us to advise them on comprehensive risk management. When claims do arise, we can arrange for the arrest of vessels at short notice in almost every port in the world. If required, arbitration or court proceedings can be commenced within hours.

#### **Our services:**

- Arrest of vessels
- Bill of lading claims
- Cargo damage, loss and contamination
- Collisions and salvage
- Formal investigations and public inquiries
- Freight and demurrage claims
- General average
- Insurance claims (P&I, Hull & Machinery, Cargo)
- Management contract disputes
- Maritime labour law and ITF issues
- Passenger and crew claims
- Time and voyage charter claims

### **Shipbuilding, Ship Finance, Sale and Purchase**

Having advised several major East and West German shipyards over many years, we have gained in-depth experience in these fields. Shipbuilding is one of our main areas of practice and covers civil shipbuilding such as container vessels, cruise liners and megayachts as well as naval shipbuilding which, due to its complex contract structures, is handled by our high-profile engineering project experts. Owners seek our advice on negotiating ship loans and the requisite securities. We also number renowned ship finance banks and investment companies among our clients.

#### **Our services:**

- Cooperation and pooling agreements
- Management structures
- Offshore units
- Reflagging
- Sale and purchase
- Shipbuilding contracts
- Ship finance and securities
- Ship repair and refit contracts

### **Regulatory**

Major casualties in recent years have made it clear that the safety of vessels, cargo, crew and the marine environment and protection against pirates and terrorists can only be guaranteed if international standards are complied with. Competition law also impacts on the shipping industry. These areas are governed by numerous, largely international, provisions which make the maritime industry a highly regulated trade. We represent our clients before national and foreign authorities and - in cooperation with our Brussels office - the EU Commission.

#### **Our services:**

- EC and antitrust law in shipping-related matters
- Fishing regulations

- ISM and ISPS codes
- Law of the flag
- Transport of hazardous materials

### **Transport and Logistics**

Trucking remains the predominant mode of transport in Central Europe. The growing network of logistics companies and the addition of new types of services pose new legal challenges for the industry. For many years we have represented major insurers in litigation arising from land transport throughout Europe, including defending claims for damages and enforcing their rights of recourse. We have developed logistics contracts for major commercial enterprises. Our knowledge of law governing air transport, inland waterways and railways complements our expertise in this particular field.

#### **Our services:**

- Cargo damage and loss
- Carriage by road, rail and air
- Freight Forwarding
- Inland waterways
- Logistics contracts
- Multimodal transport
- Transport insurance
- Warehousing

### **International Trade**

We advise on drafting of sale/purchase contracts and associated documentation including documentary credits, prepayment facilities, structured trade finance and collections account mechanisms. In case disputes arise, we have extensive experience of handling cases in the Commercial Courts of England and Germany, and in arbitration before the leading London and Hamburg commodity association tribunals. Clients include international traders, producers, manufacturers, importers and exporters.

#### **Our services:**

- International commodity contracts (including oil, gas, coal, steel, grain and feed, rice, edible oil, sugar, coffee and cocoa)
- Arbitrations before (among other bodies) GAFTA, FOSFA, RSA, SAL, FCC, LCIA and ICC.
- Court proceedings including asset attachment and arrest
- Demurrage claims
- Force majeure
- Letters of Credit
- Quality claims

Shipping, Transport & International Trade Group



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## A legal force for Europe

Based principally in the UK, France and Germany - with an office in Brussels and Dubai, as well as representative offices in Alicante and Shanghai - Taylor Wessing provides the full range of legal services to major corporations, financial and public institutions, growing enterprises and wealthy private clients.

Taylor Wessing has an enviable track record in serving knowledge-based and technology-orientated businesses. A market leader in intellectual property, the firm also has a strong market presence in corporate, finance and real estate.

## Our services

- **Corporate** - M&A, IPOs, private equity, tax, commercial law, inward investment, funds
- **Intellectual property** - Patents, copyright, trade marks, confidential information
- **Finance & projects** - Banking, structured finance, major projects
- **Dispute resolution** - Litigation, arbitration, mediation
- **Reconstruction and corporate recovery** - Restructuring, work-outs, formal insolvency
- **Real estate** - Investment, development, finance, planning and environment
- **Employment & pensions** - Employee benefits, human resources, pensions, pensions litigation
- **Competition** - EC law and anti-trust
- **Regulatory** - Public law, financial services
- **Private client** - International asset protection, tax and succession planning

- **Shipping, Transport and International Trade** - Claims, shipbuilding, sale and purchase, finance, regulatory, logistics, commodities

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