CoppéeLaw & Associés SCM

AVOCAT · ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Legal counsel to governments, public institutions and international corporations.

WHO WE ARE

A practice built where *business meets public authority.*

CoppéeLaw & Associés SCM is the practice of **Jean-Jacques Coppée**, admitted to the Brussels Bar in 1975 and established in the Canton of Vaud since 2020 under his Belgian home professional title. It advises governments, public institutions, sovereign entities and international corporations on the legal aspects of their most demanding cross-border matters.

The firm has its registered seat in the **Canton of Vaud** and a permanent establishment in **Brussels**, where the European institutions and a large part of the continent's public-sector work are concentrated. That dual footing allows a matter to be handled under Belgian, EU and Swiss law within a single relationship, and coordinated with local counsel wherever else it arises.

It is a deliberately small practice. Clients deal directly and continuously with the lawyer responsible for their matter; capacity is extended, where a matter requires it, through long-standing correspondent relationships rather than through headcount.

WHAT CLIENTS COME TO US FOR

- **Public procurement, concessions and PPP** — from the tender through to closing.
- **Projects and infrastructure** — energy, construction, engineering, oil and gas.
- **Cross-border corporate work** — establishment, joint ventures, group structuring.
- **Carbon markets and biodiversity** — carbon rights, conservation agreements, certification.
- **Financing** — the legal framework and documentation of equity and debt transactions.
- **International sanctions** — applicability, screening, derogations and licences.
- **Disputes** — negotiated settlement, mediation, arbitration and litigation.
- **Regulatory and institutional matters** — authorisations and dealings with public authorities.

1975
ADMITTED TO THE BRUSSELS BAR

2
COUNTRIES OF ESTABLISHMENT

4
CORE REGIONS OF PRACTICE

1
LAWYER RESPONSIBLE, THROUGHOUT YOUR MATTER



Jean-Jacques Coppée

Avocat — Ordre français des avocats du barreau de Bruxelles, since 1975
Established in the canton of Vaud since 2020, under his Belgian home title

Former Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Université libre de Bruxelles

Jean-Jacques Coppée was called to the Brussels Bar in 1975 and has worked in international business law ever since. His work centres on transactions in which a private counterparty and a public authority must reach agreement — public procurement and concessions, infrastructure and energy projects, establishment in unfamiliar jurisdictions, and the disputes that follow when such arrangements come under strain.

He began his career in Brussels and was based in **Washington, D.C. from 1981 to 1986**, working on real estate and private equity transactions and acquiring a first-hand understanding of the American regulatory and legislative process — including the part played within it by registered lobbyists. Those five years are the origin of a United States practice he has maintained since, and which today extends to the sanctions regimes administered by **OFAC**.

He has advised corporate groups and public authorities in **the Middle East, North Africa, the Caucasus and Central Asia**, and has assisted clients in establishing a presence in emerging markets — in recent years in Azerbaijan, the United Arab Emirates, Libya, China and several African states.

A second thread runs through the same career. He holds the **European Certificate in Human Ecology** awarded by the World Health Organization in 1977, taught for twenty years at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of the ULB, and founded there in 1987, with Professor Léopold Molle, the non-profit organisation **Médicaments et Société** (*Medicines and Society*). In 1988 he was a founding member of the **Wildlife Conservation Foundation of Tanzania**.

From 2023 to 2026 he founded and chaired **GreenCop Development Pte Ltd**, the Singapore vehicle formed to develop a large-scale voluntary carbon and conservation project over protected areas in East Africa. The vehicle was wound up in 2026.

PROFESSIONAL STATUS

Avocat, Ordre français des avocats du barreau de Bruxelles — since 1975
Established in the canton of Vaud since 2020 on the roll of EU/EFTA lawyers practising under their home professional title, held by the Chambre des avocats du canton de Vaud (arts. 27–29 LLCA).

EDUCATION

Licence en droit, Université libre de Bruxelles, 1974
European Certificate in Human Ecology — World Health Organization, 1977

DISTINCTIONS

Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite, France — 1995
Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, France — 2010

EARLIER CAREER

Washington, D.C. — 1981–1986: real estate and private equity in the United States
Chairman, Duménil-Leblé Bank Belgium (1987–1990)
Director, Duménil-Leblé Bank Switzerland
Adviser to Crédit Suisse and Paribas · French privatisations

LANGUAGES

French, English

NATIONALITY

Belgian

WHAT WE DO

Eight areas of legal practice.

01

Public procurement, concessions and PPP

Advising on tender and pre-qualification procedures, concession and public-private partnership frameworks, consortium and shareholder arrangements, and the negotiation of project documentation through to closing.

02

Projects, infrastructure and energy

Legal advice across the life of a project: development and host-state agreements, EPC and construction contracts, supply and offtake arrangements, permitting and regulatory approvals.

03

Carbon markets and biodiversity

Voluntary carbon and conservation projects: carbon rights and ownership of credits, framework agreements with national conservation authorities, certification standards and methodologies, benefit-sharing with local communities, and transfers under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

04

Corporate and cross-border transactions

Incorporation and reorganisation, joint ventures, acquisitions and disposals, shareholder agreements, and the structuring of groups operating under Belgian, EU and Swiss law and, through local counsel, under the law of third countries.

05

Financing

Advising on the legal structuring and documentation of equity and debt financings, including private placements and investment by institutional, private-equity and sovereign investors.

06

International sanctions and restrictive measures

Advising on the EU, Swiss, UK and US regimes: whether they apply, screening of counterparties and beneficial owners, their effect on existing contracts, and applications for a derogation or licence to the competent authority on behalf of a rights-holder. **In 2024 the firm obtained a derogation from the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) allowing it to advise and represent, in Switzerland, entities subject to the restrictive measures relating to Ukraine.**

07

Dispute resolution

Negotiated settlement, mediation and arbitration; representation before the Belgian courts and, in Switzerland, within the limits applicable to lawyers established under their home title, together with Swiss-registered counsel where the law so requires; and coordination with local counsel elsewhere.

08

Regulatory and institutional matters

Advising on regulatory frameworks, on authorisation and licensing procedures, and on the procedures by which national and European authorities take their decisions, and assisting clients in their formal dealings with those authorities.

Each of these areas is practised as legal advice and representation. The firm does not act as a financial intermediary, does not manage assets and does not undertake commercial representation. Any representation of a client's interests before the institutions of the European Union is conducted in accordance with the applicable transparency rules.

SECTORS

Where the practice is concentrated.

- **Energy and natural resources** — power generation and transmission, oil and gas, mining.
- **Infrastructure and transport** — ports, roads, rail, utilities and public facilities.
- **Construction and engineering** — EPC contracting, design and supervision.
- **Industry and manufacturing** — industrial establishment and joint ventures.
- **Public sector and sovereign entities** — ministries, agencies and state-owned undertakings.
- **Health and life sciences** — regulatory and institutional matters.

GEOGRAPHIES

Where our clients need us to be.

LAWS WE ADVISE ON

- **Belgian law** — and the law of the European Union.
- **Swiss law** — the firm's registered seat is in the canton of Vaud.
- **Public and private international law.**

REGIONS OF ACTIVITY

- **Europe** — with France a constant part of the practice.
- **Middle East and the Gulf** — including the United Arab Emirates.
- **Caucasus and Central Asia.**
- **North, West and Central Africa.**
- **United States and China** — through correspondent relationships.

The firm advises on Belgian, EU and Swiss law and on public and private international law. Any question governed by another legal order is handled with a local correspondent selected for the purpose, with the client's prior agreement.

TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

What you can expect, *before the first hour is billed.*

01 **Conflict check before acceptance**

No instruction is accepted before a conflict-of-interest check has been carried out. Where a conflict exists, or arises later, the firm declines the matter or withdraws from it, in accordance with its professional rules in Belgium and in Switzerland.

02 **A written engagement letter**

Every matter is opened under a written engagement letter setting out its scope, the lawyer responsible, the basis on which fees are calculated, and the general terms that apply.

03 **Fees agreed in advance**

Hourly rates are disclosed at the outset, together with an estimate of the foreseeable cost. Fixed or capped fees can be agreed. A result-related fee may be agreed *in addition to* a base fee — never as the sole basis of remuneration, which professional rules prohibit.

04 **Professional secrecy**

What a client tells the firm in the course of its work as legal counsel is covered by professional secrecy under Belgian and Swiss law, subject only to the exceptions those laws provide. That protection attaches to the lawyer, not to the file, and it is unlimited in time.

05 **Client identification and screening**

As anti-money-laundering legislation requires, the firm identifies its client and, where the client acts for another, the underlying client and beneficial owner, before the matter is opened. It also screens the parties and the flows concerned against the applicable sanctions regimes, on opening and thereafter.

06 **Secure communication**

Correspondence is by e-mail unless a matter calls for more. One standing rule, without exception: **the firm never notifies a change of its bank details by e-mail.** Any message that appears to do so should be treated as fraudulent and confirmed by telephone.

07 **Insurance and complaints**

The practice is covered by professional indemnity insurance in Belgium and in Switzerland. Any complaint is dealt with directly in the first instance, and may in any event be brought before the competent Bar authority.

OFFICES AND CORRESPONDENTS

Two offices.
A network built over fifty years.

The firm has two establishments of its own. Everything else is a correspondent relationship — a named lawyer or firm, known personally, instructed on a matter and accountable for it. We describe those relationships as what they are, because a client is entitled to know who will be acting.

Where local-law advice is required, the correspondent is proposed to the client, the scope of their mandate is agreed, and their fees are disclosed. The firm remains the client's single point of contact and coordinates the whole of the work.

OFFICES OF THE FIRM

- **Brussels** — Avenue Louise 385, B-1050 Brussels.
  The Belgian office.
- **Dully, Canton of Vaud** — Chemin Es Peccaudes 8, CH-1195 Dully.
  The registered seat.

CORRESPONDENT RELATIONSHIPS

- **Paris** — French law and EU-facing matters.
- **Washington, D.C.** — United States counterparties and institutions. The firm's principal was based there from 1981 to 1986.
- **Beijing** — Chinese counterparties and investment.
- **Middle East, Central Asia and Africa** — counsel selected by jurisdiction and by matter.

These are correspondent relationships, not offices or branches of the firm.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

A sense of the work.

Matters are described in general and anonymised terms, consistent with professional secrecy.

UNITED STATES · SANCTIONS

Advising European industrial and financial clients on the extraterritorial reach of United States sanctions programmes: the effect of OFAC designations on existing contracts, licensing, and the treatment of assets caught by successive regimes.

UNITED STATES · INVESTMENT

Advising European investors on real estate and private equity investment in the United States — choice of vehicle, joint venture and fund documentation, and the federal and state approvals required. Five years resident in Washington, D.C.

CAUCASUS · ENERGY

Advising an international industrial group on its establishment in Azerbaijan and on the legal framework of a project in the energy sector, from initial structuring through to contract.

GULF · CORPORATE

Advising on the establishment of a presence in the United Arab Emirates, including the choice of vehicle, local partnership arrangements and the related contractual documentation.

NORTH AFRICA · PUBLIC SECTOR

Advising on contractual and regulatory questions arising from work carried out in Libya, including dealings with public authorities and the management of the associated legal risk.

CHINA · ESTABLISHMENT

Advising a European client on entering the Chinese market, coordinating local counsel on questions of Chinese law and negotiating the arrangements with its local counterparty.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA · PROJECTS

Advising on infrastructure and concession projects in several African states: assessment of the tender, formation of the consortium, and negotiation through to the final agreement.

EUROPE · CROSS-BORDER

A continuing practice for Belgian, Swiss and French clients on group structuring, joint ventures and the resolution of cross-border commercial disputes.

REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

Who contracts with you, and who supervises us.

THE FIRM

CoppéeLaw & Associés SCM — société en commandite under Swiss law (arts. 594 ff. CO), registered in the commercial register of the canton of Vaud under CHE-435.667.023. General partner: Jean-Jacques Coppée. Belgian permanent establishment: Avenue Louise 385, B-1050 Brussels.

PROFESSIONAL TITLE

Avocat — Belgian professional title, under which the firm's principal also practises in Switzerland (arts. 27–29 LLCA).

SUPERVISORY AUTHORITIES

Belgium: Bâtonnier de l'Ordre français des avocats du barreau de Bruxelles; AVOCATS.BE
Switzerland: Chambre des avocats du canton de Vaud (art. 14 LLCA)

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

Belgium (BCE/KBO & VAT): BE 0765.361.375
Switzerland (IDE/UID): CHE-435.667.023

GENERAL TERMS OF BUSINESS

Supplied with every engagement letter, and on written request.

WHO PROVIDES THE SERVICES

The firm contracts with the client and is solely liable for the performance of its engagements. Matters are handled by Jean-Jacques Coppée, avocat, general partner.

ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

Ordre français des avocats du barreau de Bruxelles — roll of avocats, since 1975
Chambre des avocats du canton de Vaud — roll of EU/EFTA lawyers established under their home professional title, since 2020

RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Code de déontologie de l'avocat (AVOCATS.BE) and the regulations of the Brussels Bar · Professional rules of art. 12 LLCA, applicable under art. 29(1) LLCA (Lawyers Act, RS 935.61), the Swiss Code of Professional Conduct and the Vaud LPAv of 9 June 2015 · CCBE Code of Conduct for European Lawyers, for cross-border activities.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

Belgium: cover under the collective professional indemnity policy taken out by AVOCATS.BE for every lawyer on the roll, as the professional rules require. A person alleging loss applies to the Bâtonnier, not to the insurer.
Switzerland: AXA Assurances SA, policy no. 14.288.029 — CHF 5,000,000 for pure financial loss and CHF 10,000,000 for bodily injury and property damage, renewed annually. Cover exceeds the statutory minimum of CHF 1,000,000 per year under art. 12(f) of the Swiss Lawyers Act.

COMPLAINTS AND DATA PROTECTION

Complaints: to the firm, which replies within 30 days, then to the competent Bar authority. Data protection: the firm acts as data controller; privacy policy supplied on request; supervisory authorities: Belgian Data Protection Authority (APD/GBA) and the Swiss FDPIC.

This document is a description of the firm. It is not legal advice, it is not an offer, and no lawyer-client relationship arises from it. A relationship is created only by a written engagement letter.

Contact

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SWITZERLAND — REGISTERED SEAT

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Switzerland

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