

SIMONT BRAUN

DIGITAL FINANCE

The digital transformation is causing major shifts in the financial sector. New players coming from the communication, the technological and the online worlds are entering the market with innovative business models.

With the ever-expanding use of mobile technologies, cloud computing, big data, etc., the sharing economy is now everywhere. Traditional financial institutions must keep the pace, while pure players offering disruptive services and new business models must learn to navigate this highly regulated market.

Brussels-based law firm Simont Braun set up a specific team combining the relevant skills to help businesses address the legal challenges of these new developments. Whether mobile payment systems and devices, virtual currencies, alternative funding or lending, big data ventures... all such projects require a cross-practice legal analysis: IT contracting and licensing, financial regulation, outsourcing, data privacy & security, etc.

Our multidisciplinary team dedicated to Digital Finance has an in-depth knowledge of these evolutions and is constantly improving its practical experience of the ever-changing FinTech market.

This allows us to provide streamlined and tailor-made legal solutions to all our clients, be they seasoned experts in their field or startups on the edge of an innovative breakthrough, and to offer them a full range of legal services, including impact analysis of regulations, license acquiring, drafting and negotiating agreements, and dispute resolution.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE

- **Navigating the regulatory landscape:** assistance in negotiations with regulators, advising on the requirement of licenses, the distribution schemes, etc.
- **Assistance throughout the sales process:** analysis of consumer and data protection laws and other compliance requirements, drafting and negotiating licensing and distribution agreements, etc.
- **Mitigating risks in the digital environment:** drafting and negotiating contracts with IT and service providers, assistance in relation with data profiling and analytics, information security requirements, protection of digital assets and innovative business models, etc.

SOME OF THE RECENT PROJECTS WE WORKED ON

- Advising payment service providers on regulatory matters, such as license applications and AML/KYC client onboarding procedures
- Setting up crowdfunding platforms as well as the first alternative consumer lending platform in Belgium
- Assisting InsurTech startups with the roll-out of different disruptive services
- Assisting a mobile virtual network operator with respect to its offering of e-money products
- Exploring the boundaries of cutting edge business models in light of IP/ICT regulation and cyber security

OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FINTECH COMMUNITY

- Organizing and hosting events for the FinTech community as well as in the financial sector at large
- Co-founder of FinTech Belgium (www.fintechbelgium.be)
- Multiple speaking engagements on digital payments, crowdfunding, cyber security, blockchain, etc.
- Regular contributions in scientific journals and articles in national and international press on digital finance
- Actively participating in several associations such as the European Society for Banking and Finance Law (AEDBF/ EVBFR, www.aedbf.eu)

DIGITAL FINANCE TEAM

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