

Press release

Paris, January 12, 2022

Vivien & Associés advised InVivo Group in connexion with the acquisition of Soufflet Group, and the development of its “malt” division.

Vivien & Associés advised InVivo Group in connexion with the acquisition of Soufflet Group a French international agri-food family group. This transaction was completed on December 9, 2021. The creation of this Group supports food sovereignty while creating value for farmers and all other players in the agricultural sector. This acquisition will enable InVivo Group to strengthen its position as a driver of the agricultural and food transition through the wider deployment of its solutions, to meet the economic, social, and ecological challenges facing French agriculture.

InVivo Group’s critical size makes it one of Europe’s leading agricultural players, with revenues of nearly €10 billion, of which more than half are generated in France, and a workforce of more than 13,000 employees, of which more than 10,000 are based in France. With operations in 35 countries, it owns more than 90 industrial sites, including 63 in France.

In addition to the acquisition of Soufflet Group, Vivien & Associés also advised InVivo Group in connexion with the contemporaneous investment by KKR, Bpifrance, and Crédit Agricole Group of €440m in Malteries Soufflet to accelerate the development of its malt business and strengthen InVivo Group’s position as one of the global leaders in the sector.

InVivo Group was advised by Vivien & Associés, particularly Judith Fargeot (partner), Lisa Becker (counsel) and Chloé Canal (associate) on corporate matters, Marine Pelletier-Capes (partner) and Naomi Rimbaud (associate) on tax matters, Marie-Emilie Rousseau-Brunel (partner) on labour law matters.

InVivo Group was also advised by Aramis, particularly Aurélien Condomines (partner) and Pierre Galmiche (associate) on competition law matters, and by Willkie Farr & Gallagher, particularly Igor Kukhta (partner), Martin Jouvenot (associate) and Nolwenn Poisson (associate) on financial matters.

Soufflet Group was advised by De Pardieu Brocas Maffei, particularly Guillaume Toutté (partner), Raphaëlle de Gabrielli and Laurent Moulin (associates) on corporate matters, Philippe Guibert and Alexandre Eberhardt (partners), Anthony Gioe’ de Stefano and Hugo Mougel (associates) on competition law matters, and Sandrine Azou (associate) on labour law matters.

KKR was advised by Bredin Prat, particularly Florence Haas and Kate Romain (partners), Léa Francis and Thomas Beulaygues (associates) on corporate matters.

Bpifrance was advised by Willkie Farr & Gallagher, particularly Gabriel Flandin (partner) and Rudy Merley (associate) on corporate matters.

Idia Capital Investissement, Nord Est Partenaires and Carvest were advised by CMS Francis Lefebvre Avocats, particularly Benoit Gomel (counsel), Sara Gharbi (associate) and Noelle Bouallem (associate) on corporate matters and Jean-Charles Benois (partner) and Ambroise Roux (associate) on tax matters.

About Vivien & Associés:

Founded in 1999. Vivien & Associés provides advisory and litigation services for most key areas of both national and international business law: corporate/M&A, restructuring & insolvency, tax, employment and labour law, litigation, and arbitration. It advises its clients on their day-to-day legal issues, their strategic French and cross-border transactions, their development.

Based in Paris, Bordeaux, and Brussels, Vivien & Associés counts around 50 professionals, including 14 partners, attentive to clients' strategic and operational needs to deliver pertinent and high-quality advice.

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