

## ALGERIA

**Gide was the first international law firm to open in Algeria. Established in 2003, Gide Algeria - a legal consultancy - has a team of ten Algerian and foreign specialist legal advisors who combine a thorough knowledge of Algerian law and business practices with acknowledged expertise in all areas of international business law.**

Gide Algeria advises mainly international investors on the legal and tax aspects of their activities, in all sectors and in all areas of business law for acquisitions, privatisations, and joint ventures. Our team assists clients in their dealings with the Algerian authorities to obtain the necessary authorisations to conduct their business. All legal documents can be drafted in English, Arabic, and French. And the Algiers office can also call upon the support of all the Gide specialist practice groups to satisfy client needs.

Since 2001 - before the opening of the Algiers office - Gide has been involved in the law reform process in various business sectors and has helped introduce reform proposals. We have assisted the Ministry for the Promotion of Investment and Equity Ownership to implement its privatisation reform programme, the Ministry for Post and Telecommunications to consolidate reforms in the telecommunications sector, and the Transport Ministry to define the legal and regulatory framework for the operation of Algerian ports to encourage the private sector to adopt a more active role.

### Expertise and Practice Areas

#### Foreign Investments

Gide Algeria is regularly consulted by foreign companies and the Algerian subsidiaries of international firms to assist with their business dealings in the country. We advise on choosing and setting up the most appropriate structures for their activities, and handling all legal formalities and procedures with the local authorities. The firm has advised in sectors such as telephone services, energy, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and food, the automotive industry, and banking.

#### Exchange Control

Our legal advisors have expert knowledge in the field of exchange control, which is one of the principal brakes on foreign investment in Algeria. The team handles routine transactions and implements financing structures for complex projects.

#### Tax

The Algiers office has widely-recognised expertise in Algerian tax law and advises clients on all tax aspects of their business including the optimisation of complex transactions, negotiating investment agreements with the Algerian government to obtain tax and customs duty advantages, and guarantee their right to repatriate earnings from their Algerian business ventures.

#### ALGIERS <

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WARSAW

## Mergers & Acquisitions, Corporate Law, Privatisations

Gide Algeria assists foreign investors in various areas of corporate law including company incorporations and acquisitions, privatisation, equity interest acquisitions, joint ventures, and other cooperation agreements. These instructions include pre-transaction due diligence, drafting and negotiating agreements, and handling the procedures and formalities when dealing with government bodies such as the National Trade and Companies Registry and the tax authorities.

## Banking & Finance - Capital Markets - Insurance

Our team assists international banks and financial institutions established in Algeria with loans and credit transactions, and establishing security interests and guarantees. We also assist in more complex operations involving credit derivatives and project finance, and in the first local financing projects involving private operators.

## Economic Law

The Algiers office advises European and international companies on distribution and competition law, areas in which it has recognised experience as evidenced by its instruction by the Algerian Government to review the Competition Ordinance of 19 July 2003.

## Employment Law

Gide Algeria can handle the various formalities related to employment law issues in the country and advises foreign groups with subsidiaries in Algeria on the negotiation and drafting of their employment agreements, obtaining work and residency permits, recruitment formalities with the local authorities for social security, redundancy, the tax and welfare status of expatriate managers, and the formalities for their postings.

## Real Estate

Thanks to its in-depth knowledge of Algerian real estate law, the team advises on issues concerning business leases, assists clients with land purchases and obtaining the necessary building permits, and assists with the development of large integrated real estate projects.

## Major Infrastructure Projects

The Algiers office advises clients on major industrial projects and their financing (concessions, BOO, BOT, BTO and BT) in the energy, infrastructure (motorways, metro), and water treatment sectors. Our team has also been instructed in the telecoms services sector.

## Energy

Gide Algeria has wide experience in the hydrocarbons and electricity sectors and assists various operators at the different stages of their energy projects in Algeria. In the hydrocarbons sector, our team has advised on the development, in association with Sonatrach, of the largest integrated gas project ever undertaken in the country.

## Public Law

Foreign companies regularly seek advice from our team with regard to international invitations to tender governed by the Algerian Public Contracts Code. Most available land for industrial and infrastructure projects is held in public ownership.



The legal press regularly singles out Gide Algeria as one of the best law firms in the market. It is consistently ranked **Tier 1** by *Chambers & Partners*, *Legal 500* and *IFLR1000*.

*"This firm has experience advising significant multinational clients on M&A, compliance, antitrust work and foreign investments. The team is also frequently mandated on oil and gas transactions. Its recent work highlights include assisting Volkswagen with the setting up of a joint venture to construct an assembly plant. Clients praise the firm very highly, noting its 'real expertise in Algerian law' and describing it as 'very professional, very responsive and business-oriented.' Within his broad corporate practice, Samy Laghouati handles significant business ventures and foreign investments in Algeria. His experience also covers infrastructure transactions in the real estate and energy sectors. Clients report that 'it is always a pleasure to work with him' and consider him 'an excellent lawyer.' One peer described him as 'very energetic and solution-minded.' »*

**Chambers Global 2018**

## CONTACT

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