

The Financial Times and Mergermarket M&A Award

Submission for Austrian & Switzerland Legal Advisor of the Year

BAKER & MCKENZIE

November 2009

Baker & McKenzie was shortlisted for the award for Austrian & Switzerland Legal Advisor of the Year 2009

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In 2009, Baker & McKenzie's Austrian and Swiss teams acted in a number of ground-breaking M&A transactions in the banking sector. Relevant mandates included advising Julius Bär in its acquisition of ING Bank (Suisse) and its subsidiaries from Netherlands-based ING Group (a deal with substantial media coverage given the current trend of selling Swiss-domiciled private banking subsidiaries), advising Belgian-French Dexia on the sale of its 49% interest in the Austrian municipal finance bank Kommunalkredit Austria to the Republic of Austria in the first nationalization transaction under the Austrian banking bail-out legislation and concurrent acquisition by Dexia of 49% of Dexia Kommunalkredit Bank. B&M also advised Dexia on the subscription of participation capital of Kommunalkredit, which represented the first of a series of issuances by Austrian banks. Finally, in late 2008, B&M acted for Constantia Packaging on the sale of Constantia Privatbank to a consortium of the five biggest Austrian banks, again a transaction very much in the public eye.

Other high-profile M&A assignments in 2009 included advising the majority owners of New Schild Holding, a leading Swiss fashion retailer, in their sale of a majority of the shares to Barclays, advising Ascom Holding on its acquisition of the TEMS business division from Ericsson in a transaction involving more than ten jurisdictions, and advising Austrian regional energy holding company BEWAG on the sale of various businesses in regulated auction processes. In one of the latest major headline deals, only signed in October 2009, B&M is acting for Swiss listed company Accu Holding in the sale of its battery businesses to EnerSys, the leading supplier of industrial batteries.

Reflecting its strong track record and pipeline, Baker & McKenzie's M&A team in Austria & Switzerland has grown in 2009 and now includes 17 partners. Regional offices are located in Geneva, Vienna and Zurich.