



Press Release

Accuracy, expecting sharp increase in Dutch class action and litigation activity, adds ex-KPMG partner Jan Gijsbert Bakker to team as external consultant

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Accuracy, the international financial advisory services firm, has added former KPMG partner Jan Gijsbert Bakker as an external consultant to its litigation support team in anticipation of a sharp increase in the practice's activities in the Netherlands.

The firm expects increased demand for its services following the establishment of an English-language court for international business disputes in the Netherlands and as Dutch lawmakers examine draft legislation that would make it easier to initiate class action lawsuits.

"The Netherlands will follow countries such as France and the UK, where a claim culture with massive lawsuits and class actions is already well established," said Accuracy Partner Bas van Helden. "In these countries, Accuracy has built a strong track record in supporting parties with large disputes."

The Netherlands Commercial Court is scheduled to start deliberating cases this year. The Dutch Council of the Judiciary established this English-language court to promote the Netherlands as an important centre for settling international business disputes. Furthermore, at the end of 2016 a legislative proposal on class actions was submitted to the Dutch parliament that would allow interest groups to represent a group of claimants through the filing of one lawsuit. Not only will this allow customers of consumer goods companies or financial services providers to sue, but also parties that are negatively affected by large infrastructural projects.

"Large infrastructure projects like the construction of highways and railway lines will be involved. For example, gas extraction plants in Groningen will probably face class action lawsuits much faster", says Leontine Koens-Betz, Managing Partner of Accuracy in the Netherlands.

The building and infrastructure sectors are examples of industries that could experience a huge increase in the number of claims. The Dutch Economic Institute for Building (Economisch Instituut voor de Bouw) expects a 4.5% and 4% increase in construction activity in 2017 and 2018, with the projects getting bigger, more complex and therefore riskier.

Bakker combines considerable experience in claims with a substantial network in the building and infrastructure sectors. He joins a pool of external advisors that Accuracy will expand in the coming years. Bakker said: "The combination of my own local network and the international character of Accuracy puts us in the position to advise on big litigation cases the coming years."

About Accuracy

Accuracy is the sole, truly independent European actor in the field of financial advisory services to business leaders and their shareholders, wholly owned by its partners. Accuracy is present in ten countries in Europe, North America and Asia, and delivers its services worldwide. Accuracy is comprised today of 320 consultants across all of its offices, in which 39 are partners. Its offices are located in Paris, Madrid, Amsterdam, Milan, Frankfurt, Brussels, London, Munich, Quebec, Montreal, New Delhi, Singapore and Barcelona.

We boast a full range of skills in the economic, financial and accounting fields, and combine these skills to reach a single goal: to give sense to figures by analysing them, questioning them, verifying their reliability and providing recommendations to facilitate effective decision-making.

Accuracy combines extensive know-how in areas such as audit techniques, valuations, financial modelling, financial forecasting and market analyses. This aids our clients in dealing with a wide-range of situations including acquisitions, disposals, companies in difficulty, restructuring, litigation and disputes.



Press contact

Murkje Koopmans, Commercial Manager, Accuracy
murkje.koopmans@accuracy.com | Tel: +31 20 75 47 640 | Mob: +31 6 207 197 03

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