



RISTO VAHIMETS
PARTNER

Risto Vahimets has acted as advisor on more than 300 major M&A transactions, including many landmark projects in Estonia. He is an experienced lawyer in mergers and acquisitions, real estate and commercial property, competition, retail industry, pharmaceutical and medicine law.

Chambers Global and Chambers Europe praise Risto Vahimets as follows: "just brilliant – he's pragmatic and to the point." Clients appreciate his "co-operative and customer-friendly approach".

MAJOR TRANSACTIONS

- Advised Swedbank in takeover of Hansapank (the largest transaction ever in Baltics, ca 1.7 billion EUR).
- Advised Sportland International Group, Baltic's largest sporting goods retailer, in restructuring and refinancing with banks consortium including Swedbank, SEB Pank and DnB Nord and the sale of 60% of the shares to leading UK sports retailer Sports Direct International.
- Technopolis OYJ. Advising in relation to acquisitions of Ülemiste City (10% of Tallinn office market) in Estonia. The enterprise value of Technopolis Ülemiste is 63.5 m EUR.
- Advised EQT Infrastructure Fund on acquisition of Adven AS (previous business name Fortum Termest AS). The transaction was one of the largest M&A deals in the Baltics in 2011. As a result of the transaction, EQT Infrastructure Fund acquired a 100 per cent indirect holding in Adven AS. Transaction value approx 200 MEUR.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- Sale of Radisson SAS premises and activities in Tallinn, 76MEUR value, involved Boulton as buyer, HSH Norbank and Lehman Brothers as finance parties.
- Advised Pro Kapital in sale of one of the largest shopping centres (Kristiine Keskus) in Tallinn to Citycon group for ca 105 MEUR. This deal is a landmark transaction for being one of the largest real estate transactions in Estonia ever and for setting a benchmark for other post-recession real estate deals.
- Advised Nortal (former Webmedia) on acquisition of Finnish software company CCC. Estonia's largest software developer Nortal purchased a 97 per cent stake in the Finnish software company CCC Corporation. CCC is a medium-sized Finnish company founded in 1985. The last year's turnover of CCC amounted to 22 million euros and the company employs nearly 200 professionals. The consolidated company is the biggest IT firm in the Baltics and among the 25 largest in the Scandinavian countries. The transaction was partly financed by equity and partly by a bank loan. TARK GRUNTE SUTKIENE assisted Nortal with both conducting the purchase transaction and arranging a loan for the transaction.

- Advised several of the most significant property developments in the capital city of Estonia, Tallinn. Among others Viru Keskus and SAS Radisson are the most prominent examples.

PUBLICATIONS

- Has published several articles about international taxation, securities and corporate law, including
- compiler of the book "Mergers and Acquisitions - from Preparation to Closing", 2011
- co-author of the book "Dispute Resolution", 2009
- co-author of the book „Regulation of relations between owners of „growth companies“. Kasvuettevõtted, 2008
- compiler of the book “Mergers and Acquisitions: An Alternative to Organic Business Growth”, 2007
- compiler of the first ever Estonian language book on legal aspects of mergers and acquisitions

MEMBERSHIPS

- 2000 International Bar Association
- 2000 Southwestern Legal Foundation Alumni Association
- 1996 Estonian Bar Association
- 1997 University of Connecticut Law School Alumni Association

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- 2002 partner at TARK GRUNTE SUTKIENE
- 1996 attorney at TARK GRUNTE SUTKIENE

EDUCATION

- 1997 University of Connecticut, USA (LL.M. Edmund S. Muskie Scholarship)
- 1996 University of Tartu, Faculty of Law, Estonia (B.A. *cum laude*)
- 1995 Academy of American and International Law, Southwestern Legal Foundation, Dallas, USA

LANGUAGES

Estonian, English, Finnish, Russian

CONTACTS

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