



Global Competition Review's GCR 100 2025 – VBB's rankings

Highly recommended – [Brussels](#)

VAN BAEL & BELLIS prides itself on being one of the most successful independent firms in the Brussels market, competing with a long list of larger international rivals. Partners Porter Elliott and Andrzej Kniecik lead a sizable team of 12 partners that includes Jean-François Bellis, one of the pioneers of EU antitrust law, as well as 10 counsel. Long-time partner and pharmaceuticals specialist David Hull retired in May 2024. Recent work highlights include advising Nippon Steel in its \$14.9 billion acquisition of competitor US Steel, which the European Commission unconditionally cleared in May 2024 after finding no competition concerns. The firm also represents Japan Airlines in its appeal against the commission's readopted Air Cargo cartel fine, though advocate general Athanasios Rantos advised the ECJ in September 2024 to uphold the infringement decision. Elsewhere, Intel has entrusted the team to steer its appeal against DG Comp's reimposed €376 million abuse of dominance penalty, which reflected the ECJ's confirmation of the agency's naked restrictions analysis. The group also represents German mobile phone manufacturer Gigaset as a third party supporting Google in its appeal against the commission's Android decision before the ECJ.

Recommended – [Belgium](#)

VAN BAEL & BELLIS' Belgian competition team is led by Peter L'Ecluse, who works with fellow partners Kris Van Hove, Johan Van Acker and Markus Wellinger, as well as two counsel and 10 associates. Almost all of its impressive work is confidential, but public matters include defending DAF and PACCAR against follow-on damages claims stemming from the EU truck cartel, with four cases currently pending in three different Belgian courts. The practice also assisted pharmaceutical wholesaler CERP in the BCA's flu vaccine cartel investigation. The only non-settling company, the penalty of €779,000 was a significant reduction from the €18.4 million recommended by the watchdog's investigative arm. The team also negotiated Le Creuset's settlement with the BCA for its involvement in an RPM scheme, resulting in a €490,112 fine.