

Mehdi Haroun

Partner
Corporate, Finance and Investments

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Mehdi Haroun specializes in a broad range of corporate and commercial matters, particularly in the energy (oil & gas, power) and infrastructure sectors (major infrastructure projects), covering France and French speaking countries, in particular North Africa. A partner in our Paris office, Mehdi represents clients in various types of projects and transactions, as well as related disputes. Mehdi is one of the few international law firms partners qualified to practice in France and Algeria.

Mehdi works with leading energy and infrastructure clients on mergers and acquisitions, disposals, joint ventures and restructurings, as well as on project development, finance and dispute resolution relating specifically to these areas.

A dual French and Algerian lawyer, he works mainly with clients and projects in France, North Africa (from Mauritania to Egypt) and Francophone Africa. Mehdi has extensive experience in upstream oil and gas, including large unconventional projects, as well as downstream and midstream. He has also worked on several power projects, both on conventional (various IPPs and IWPPs in North Africa and France) and renewables (PV, CSP, Biomass, Wind and Hydro), and also on nuclear projects in France. He advised throughout the energy value chain: from company/asset acquisition or divestiture as well as greenfield/brownfield project development. He also advised on several industrial projects in France and North Africa, mainly in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya advising both Owners, developers and EPC Contractors. In addition, Mehdi has been involved in several international arbitrations relating to energy and infrastructure projects, both for breach of BITs and breach of contracts under ICC, ICSID, UNCITRAL and ad hoc arbitration rules.

Fluent in French, English and Arabic, Mehdi is a Board Member of the Franco Arab Chamber of Commerce, as well as a member of the Algerian Chamber of Industry and Commerce. He was the Algerian representative at the ICC Court of Arbitration for four consecutive years. Mehdi also regularly lectures in project finance and hydrocarbons laws at the University of Montpellier (France).

Matters

CEPSA in relation to the renegotiation of its contractual arrangements with Sonatrach.

A U.S. company in relation to the negotiation of a joint venture with Sonatrach for the manufacturing and supply of oil & gas products and services.

A Spanish construction company in relation to various construction disputes.

Various **IOCs** in relation to the prequalification process for the 2014 Algerian upstream bid round.

A U.S. company in relation to the direct negotiation with the Algerian authorities of all aspects of an unconventional development in Algeria, including downstream gas offtake undertakings.

RWE Dea (now DEA Deutsche Erdoel AG) in relation to its sale by RWE AG to LetterOne Group in connection with its Algerian assets.

OMV on the US\$866 million acquisition of the Tunisian oil exploration and production subsidiaries of Pioneer Natural Resources.

DONG Energy on the tender process, launched by the French Government in July 2011, for the development, construction and operation of five offshore wind farms in France and ongoing advice in relation to the development of the project and Dong's corporate structuring in France.

BG Group, BHP Billiton, BP, Burlington Resources, Chevron, Japex, Maersk Oil, Petrofac, PetroSA, Sasol-Chevron, Shell, Statoil and others on acquisitions/disposals of interests in production sharing contracts, concessions and construction of related infrastructure, and/or on complex liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, gas-to-liquids and petrochemicals projects in North Africa.

BG Energy Holdings Limited on a review of the general terms and conditions (governed by French law) for access to LNG capacity at the Montoir-de-Bretagne LNG terminal in France, operated by GDF SUEZ.

EnBW on the regulatory framework applicable to capacity bookings and gas network access in France.

BG Tunisia, Chevron Texaco, GE and others on various aspects, including the drafting and negotiation of turnkey engineering, procurement and construction contracts, long-term maintenance contracts and other project documentation, in relation to independent power projects in North Africa and France.

Solar Euromed on the development of the first CSP project in France (Corsica) and the a solar power plant development programme (total capacity 2,000 MW) with the Republic of Sudan.

EDF on the development and operation of France's second European Pressurized Reactor nuclear power station at Penly in Normandy.

Islamic Development Bank and European Investment Bank on the multi-sourced financing of the TIFERT phosphoric acid production project in La Skhira, Tunisia.

EUTELSAT IGO and International Telecommunications Satellite Organization on their continuing relationships with the operating companies and their shareholders, and the regulators (e.g., leveraged recapitalization and space frequency rights).

A member of the team which successfully represented Kuwaiti telecom operator **Wataniya** against Egyptian group Orascom Telecom in a US\$1.2 billion dispute over the control of their highly profitable cellphone joint venture in Tunisia.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Montpellier, cum laude, with distinction

Magister Juris, Oxford University, UK

Master/DESS, University of Montpellier, summa cum laude with honors

ADMISSIONS

France

Algeria

ASSOCIATIONS

AIPN

Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACI)

Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce (Center for Mediation and Arbitration)

LANGUAGES

Arabic

English

French

Recognition

'Mehdi Haroun has deep in-country knowledge that goes beyond an understanding of the law and its application.'

LEGAL 500, 2020

A thought leader in Energy, France

WHO'S WHO LEGAL, 2020

'A key player in the market with an ability to focus on the most important questions'

CHAMBERS GLOBAL (ALGERIA CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL), 2020

Expert Based Abroad for Algeria (Corporate/Commercial) and Tunisia (General Business Law)

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2021

Leading lawyer in mining, oil & gas and natural resources (France)

LEGAL 500, 2021

In the Hall of Fame for Algeria, Corporate/Commercial

LEGAL 500, 2021

'Described by peers as "one of the most talented lawyers in this market"'

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2018

King & Spalding LLP is 'among the best in Algeria' due to its 'good level of service' and 'communicative lawyers'

LEGAL 500, 2018

Ranked for Projects & Energy International (France) and Africa-Wide Projects & Energy
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2021

'This Paris-based team is a heavyweight contender in corporate and commercial matters'
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2017

'One of the best doing energy and PPP in the region'
CHAMBERS GLOBAL (TUNISIA), 2018

'An acclaimed practitioner .. highly distinguished for matters in North Africa'
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2021

'One client praises his "huge experience in the oil and gas industry"
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2021

Insights

CLIENT ALERT

June 10, 2020

Algeria Finally Embraces Foreign Investment: The End of the 49%-51% Rule and the
Endorsement of Long-Awaited Measures Inciting FDIs in the 2020 Additional Finance Act

March 23, 2020

COVID-19: Impacts on Commercial Contracts Under French Law

NEWSLETTER

May 25, 2020

Africa Bulletin – May 2020

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Events

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

January 21, 2020

Mehdi Haroun to Speak at Association of International Petroleum Negotiators' Conference

WEBINAR

October 22, 2020

Africa Webinar Series: COVID-19: Opportunity in Crisis Part Two

September 24, 2020

Africa Webinar Series: COVID-19: Opportunity in Crisis

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News

RECOGNITION

April 15, 2021

Legal 500 EMEA 2021 Recognizes King & Spalding among the Top Firms in Europe, the Middle

East and Africa

March 18, 2021

Chambers Europe Again Ranks King & Spalding Among Top International Law Firms in its 2021 Guide

February 19, 2021

Chambers Global Again Recognizes King & Spalding as a Leading International Law Firm

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