

# 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

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A thought leader in Energy, France

WHO'S WHO LEGAL, 2020

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

CHAMBERS GLOBAL (ALGERIA CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL), 2020

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

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2021

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

LEGAL 500, 2021

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In the Hall of Fame for Algeria, Corporate/Commercial

LEGAL 500, 2021

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

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2018

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

'communicative lawyers'

LEGAL 500, 2018

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Ranked for Projects & Energy International (France) and Africa-Wide Projects & Energy

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2021

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'This Paris-based team is a heavyweight contender in corporate and commercial matters'

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2017

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'One of the best doing energy and PPP in the region'

CHAMBERS GLOBAL (TUNISIA), 2018

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'An acclaimed practitioner .. highly distinguished for matters in North Africa'

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2021

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'One client praises his "huge experience in the oil and gas industry"'

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2021

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## 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

[VIEW ALL ON KSLAW.COM](#)

## News

### IN THE NEWS

*November 15, 2021 • Source: Africa Intelligence*

Mehdi Haroun counsels Maurel & Prom in its arbitration dispute with Gabon

### RECOGNITION

*October 8, 2021*

King & Spalding Earns Multiple Practice and Individual Rankings in 2021 IFLR1000 Guide

Best Lawyers Recognizes Europe-based King & Spalding Lawyers in its 2022 Guides

[VIEW ALL ON KSLAW.COM](#)