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Irene Verheijen

Irene Verheijen works as a lawyer based in Amsterdam at the law firm Legaltree. She specializes in the field of regulated markets where the interaction between government and industry plays an important role. Her focus is in particular on the food industry.

Irene Verheijen advises companies throughout the food chain (from animal feed companies to suppliers and producers of foodstuffs) on the (interpretation of) laws and regulations they must comply with when producing and marketing their products. Where appropriate, she assists these companies in legal proceedings, against the government but also between companies or in relation to consumers.

Irene Verheijen regularly publishes and lectures on topical issues in the field of food law. She is co-author of the practice guide Roadmap Food Law and of the EU Food Law Handbook. She plays an active role in both the EFLA and the Dutch Food Law Association. Irene is the President of the European Food Law Association (EFLA) as of October 1, 2020.



Peter Loosen

RA Peter Loosen, LL.M. (Edinburgh), is a Director and the Head of Brussels office of Lebensmittelverband Deutschland (Food Federation Germany). Within Lebensmittelverband Deutschland he is mainly in charge of food law dossiers, the legal committees of the federation and the management of the food supplements organisation within Lebensmittelverband that represents the sector in Germany.

He has been engaged in the development of EU Food Law since the late 90s and followed dossiers such as the General Food Law (GFL) and the then Farm to Fork strategy, inter alia via the regulations on genetically modified organisms, novel foods, nutrition and health claims, the addition of vitamins, minerals and other substances to foods, food labelling and many others more.

Peter Loosen has been Chair of the Board of Food Supplements Europe for four years and is chairing working groups within FoodDrinkEurope. He now focusses on the implementation of the new Farm to Fork Strategy on more sustainable food systems, especially on the new legal framework for sustainable food systems and the labelling dossiers of the strategy. He is also a lecturer on food law at the University of Bonn.



Bernd van der Meulen

Prof Dr B.M.J. Bernd van der Meulen (www.berndvandermeulen.eu) is active as private consultant in food legal affairs, including training, advice, arbitration and litigation. He is professor of food law in Denmark, the Netherlands and Italy (UPO University of Piemonte Orientale).

Courses taught by him include among others EU Food Law; Food, Nutrition and Human Rights; Intellectual Property; International Food Law, US American Food Law, Chinese Law on Food and Agriculture and Comparative Food Law.

Van der Meulen has a background in Public Law which comprises Administrative Law, Human Rights, European Law, International Law and Competition Law. His core competence is in the legal dimensions of the Life Sciences in general and in Food Law in particular.

He is director of the European Institute for Food Law (www.food-law.nl) and board member of the Global Harmonization Initiative (www.globalharmonization.net). For several years he was member of the board of EFLA.

For some of his books see the European Institute for Food Law Series: www.food-law.nl/Books/ - For papers see: <http://ssrn.com/author=823788>



Nicole Coutrelis

Nicole is a lawyer at the Paris Bar since 1985, Partner at DWF France.

Before starting her private practice, she was at the French "Office National Interprofessionnel des Céréales" (Cereals Authority) where she was in charge of the European Affairs (1972-1978). She was then nominated at the French Permanent Representation to the EC in Brussels, ("Attaché Agricole" from 1978 to 1982) and joined afterwards the Legal Service of the European Commission where she was in charge of Competition Law cases and State Aid cases related to France and to competition applied to Agriculture (1982-1985).

Nicole Coutrelis has then been a partner of Coutrelis & Associés, a French Law Firm with Offices in Paris and in Brussels, specializing in EU Law, mainly in Antitrust, Agriculture, Food and Drug regulations, Alcoholic Beverages, Free Movement of Goods and all matters related to the Single European Market.

Currently as a partner at DWF France, she specialises in UE Law and, more particularly, Food Law helping clients place products on the EU market, as well as defending them in inspections and, when needed, litigating, in France and before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

She has also a strong practice in Competition Law and in EU State Aid law.

Former President and now Vice-President of the European Food Law Association, she is a Member of the Institute of Food technologists and correspondent for France to the European Food and Feed Law Review (EFFL). She is the author of many articles and Conferences related to European Law, particularly in Food Law, as well as to EU procedures.



Andreas Meisterernst

Prof. Andreas Meisterernst is a lawyer (Rechtsanwalt), founding partner of the law firm Meisterernst Rechtsanwälte PartG mbB, Munich, a mid-sized law firm focused on food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industry and public commercial law.

Prof. Andreas Meisterernst is also founder of its complementary scientific sister unit RDA Scientific Consultants GmbH, Munich. Honorary Professor of food law at the Technical University, Munich (TUM School of Life Sciences).

Editor and author of several law books on food law and author of more than 50 scientific articles. President of the Bavarian Professional Court for Attorneys, he is an active member of the German Food Federation (treasurer and member of the board, member of the legal and scientific committee) and of the European Food Law Association (Vice President). Prof. Andreas Meisterernst is also Editor-in-Chief and co-founder of the European Food and Feed Law Journal (EFFL).



Vicente Rodríguez Fuentes

Vicente Rodríguez Fuentes is a Spanish lawyer specialized in food Law and has a wide experience in regulatory affairs and litigation.

He was educated at the Universities of Seville, Spain, (law degree) and Liege, Belgium, (Masters Degree in European Law avec distinction). He is the author of numerous articles on Food Law and has directed the book *El Derecho Agroalimentario* (Edit. Bosch 2003), edited the book *From agricultural to food law, the new scenario* (Wageningen Academics Publ. 2014), and has participated in the book *Lecciones de derecho alimentario 20015-16* (Thomson Reuters Aranzadi 2016) in the book *UE. Sociología y Derecho Alimentario* (Thomson Reuters 2013) and the book *The functional field of food law, reconciling the market and human rights* (Wageningen Academics Publ. 2019).

He has written the legal section of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture/Spanish Food and Beverage Federation (FIAB) Guidelines on the Food Alert System.

He participates regularly in international seminars and conferences on food law and has been chosen food lawyer of the year, Spain, in the years 2020 and 2021 by Lawyer Monthly.

He is a lecturer at the University of the Balearic Islands in a Master Degree on Nutrigenomics and Personalised Nutrition.

More info at www.legalagrifood.com



Manon Ombredane

Manon Ombredane is an associate in the EU Regulatory, Competition and Trade department of Fieldfisher (Belgium) LLP. Her practice focuses on EU regulatory and environmental law including REACH, biocides, pesticides and food additives. She is involved with task force management, litigation and product compliance work.

Prior to joining Fieldfisher, Manon Ombredane worked at an international law firm on issues related to feed and food law such as labeling, claims, and authorization dossiers (novel food, food additives, food enzymes). She also worked on regulatory issues surrounding cannabis- and hemp-based products, including cannabidiol (CBD) and related cannabinoids.

Manon Ombredane has a master degree in Economic and Social Law from the Université Libre de Bruxelles and a Master degree in Economic Law with a specialization in Agri-Food Law from the Université de Nantes.

She is a native French speaker and speaks English fluently.



Mélanie Le Plaine-Mileur

Mélanie Le Plaine-Mileur is a food processing engineer (AgroParisTech) with a background in food law and food public policies (University of La Sorbonne).

15 years ago, she took the position of Secretary General of the French trade association Synpa (www.synpa.org) which represents the interests in France of the producers and distributors of specialty food ingredients.

What is at stake for the sector: clear and predictable regulations to access the market and for Research & Development and also fair communication to rebuild trust in food products.

Mélanie Le Plaine-Mileur lectures at several universities in France on ingredients regulations, such as novel food, food additives, food enzymes and clean label.



Sarah Arayess

Sarah Arayess LL.M MSc is founder of the Amsterdam-based law boutique Say legal. She is admitted to the Netherlands bar as “advocaat” (attorney-at-law). Say legal has a clear focus on food law and advertising law. Clients reach out to Say legal in different stages of a product life: for example, for hands-on advice in the product development phase or for a legal check on labelling or the design of advertising campaigns. Say legal furthermore assists and where necessary litigates on behalf of clients in disputes with the supervising authority (such as the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority) or acts on behalf of the client in advertising complaints brought before the Dutch self-regulatory Advertising Code Committee.

Say legal and Sarah Arayess are ranked in Legal 500 for the category Industry Focus Food in the Netherlands. One of the testimonials: “*Sarah Arayess is a joy to work with. She is efficient, personable and extremely knowledgeable. She has never missed a deadline and communicates clearly. I always know I’m in safe hands.*”. Sarah is member of the EFLA Board of Directors and she is a frequently asked speaker, chair and lecturer on food and advertising law related topics.



Kai P Purnhagen

Kai P Purnhagen is a full Professor and Chair of Food Law at the Faculty of Life Science, Nutrition and Health of the University of Bayreuth (Germany) . He works in the areas of European Union Law, International Economic Law and the interdisciplinary and comparative analysis of law.

His early research focused on the increasing role of systematisation in the harmonisation of risk regulation in EU law. More recently, Kai P Purnhagen has worked broadly on various aspects of risk regulation in EU law, WTO law, and German law, with a focus on the implementation of findings from behavioural, economic and safety sciences into law and regulation. He is also (co-)editor of various prestigious outlets, most prominently of the forthcoming Oxford Encyclopedia on EU law and the Springer Science Series Studies in European Economic Law and Regulation. Kai P Purnhagen was also Founding Associate Editor of the European Journal of Risk Regulation (Cambridge University Press).

His works regularly influence law-making and interpretation at various levels. Among others, his works were taken up by the European Court of Justice in data protection law, the European Commission in marketing law, the German government in energy and consumer law and the German Supreme Court in contract law. He regularly serves as an expert to various governments and consulting agencies such as the Chinese government, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the German government and the Austrian government.

He was responsible for the legal part of interdisciplinary projects such as the Nudging project with the German ministry for the environment (Anstossen nachhaltiger Konsummuster, 2014-2016), and the ZaNexus project for several German ministries (2015-2017).



P Paola Corte

Lawyer at the Milan Bar Association, Paola Corte offers legal advice related to the production, distribution and administration of food and beverages and similar products at Studio Legale Corte. She checks the legal compliance of food composition, production techniques, labelling and advertising. The same activity is carried out for food related products (such as materials intended to come into contact with foodstuffs) and other consumer goods (pet food, toys, etc.)

Paola Corte carries out defensive activity in the courts, both by challenging regulatory sanctions imposed by supervisory bodies on food business operators, and by defending defendants in criminal proceedings relating to the production, marketing and administering of food and beverages, and other consumer goods.

Paola Corte has held several courses for food business operators on food law and food labeling. She is regularly asked to be a speaker or chair for national and international food-related conferences.

Adjunct Professor at Luiss Business School, she teaches Food Law Elements in the "Food and Wine Business" Master. Also, she is a member of the Board of Directors of the European Food Law Association (EFLA) since 2018.

Languages spoken: Italian (native speaker), English (native speaker), French



Joanna Krakowiak

Joanna Krakowiak, as an attorney-at-law, coordinates the work of the Life Science & Healthcare practice at Wardinsky Partners. She advises clients from regulated industries, particularly pharmaceuticals, biotech, medical devices, and foods, in regulatory matters and comprehensive implementation of projects in Poland.

She has many years of wide-ranging experience in matters involving marketing authorisation procedures, labelling, and models for sale and distribution of products. She carries out projects involving multi-site clinical studies in commercial and non-commercial models, financed from public funds, including studies involving American biotech firms. She provides comprehensive legal advice on strategies for communications with consumers, patients, and physicians. She provides opinions on advertising campaigns for products, including medicinal products and medical devices, and advises on how to mitigate risks of challenges to marketing messages by competitors, consumers, or market regulators.

Food law is a special area of her practice, as she is the only person from Poland who is a member of the Board of Directors of the European Food Law Association. She applies this experience in her work every day for Polish and foreign clients, assisting them in complex matters involving such issues as classification, safety and labelling of products, and in proceedings before regulators and the administrative courts.

Joanna Krakowiak is involved in key transactions carried out by the law firm and has significant experience in regulatory aspects of M&A, including healthcare regulations.