

## Covington Expands in EU With Opening Of Frankfurt Base

By **Najiyya Budaly**

*Law360, London (April 3, 2018, 3:56 PM BST)* -- Covington & Burling LLP opened its new Frankfurt office on Tuesday, hiring four local attorneys from the German financial hub and bringing in two Covington partners from Brussels and New York as the firm continues to expand outside the U.K.

The U.S. law firm will advise its clients in Germany on practices including banking, employment and intellectual property. The Frankfurt move follows the launch in September of Covington's Dublin office, which it opened in response to the U.K.'s vote to leave the European Union.

The Frankfurt office will be made up of six partners from German firm Heymann & Partner Rechtsanwälte and two partners from Covington's Brussels and New York offices, the U.S. firm announced.

"Covington will offer German companies a unique capability to help them navigate through their most complex and consequential business issues in their most important international markets," Timothy Hester, Covington's chairman, said in a statement.

"Our new German team is of outstanding quality and will provide important synergies with the firm, including our London and Brussels offices, and will allow us to serve the needs of our clients who have legal issues in Germany."

As well as finance, the office will advise on mergers and acquisitions, restructurings and technology transactions, the firm said.

The partner line-up includes Thomas Heymann, founder of Heymann & Partner, whose practice focuses on M&A, private equity, outsourcing and restructurings. He is regarded as one of Germany's leading lawyers by Chambers Europe, the firm said.

"Covington will be a fantastic platform to further develop our technology and transaction practices," Heymann said. "We have worked with Covington lawyers for a long period and value both the exceptional quality as well as the firm's culture of collaboration and teamwork. This will be a great fit."

Heymann studied philosophy, economics and law at Goethe University in Frankfurt, according to his LinkedIn profile. His CV includes experience as a partner at Clifford Chance LLP and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP.

Dr. Henning Bloss will serve as managing partner of the new Frankfurt office, Covington said. His practice focuses on financing and restructuring transactions.

The other partners are Dr. Jorn Hirschmann, Dr. Lars Lensdorf, Dr. Moritz Husch, Walter Born, Dr. Adem Koyuncu and Philipp Tamussino.

Bart Van Vooren, a Covington associate specializing in EU law, told Law360 in March that U.K. banks and insurers will retain the benefits of the single market, the custom union and European policies during Britain's Brexit transition period. But the U.K. will have no say on any EU regulations that come into force, he added.

Several London-based banks, insurers and asset managers have already begun shifting staff and operations into the EU to secure their business operations after Brexit. They are looking at which key services — such as securities trading, cross-border lending and payment systems — could be relocated to cities such as Paris, Frankfurt or Dublin.

“Preparations with a hard Brexit in mind are ongoing in a very intensive way, and some contingency plans may still be triggered rather soon,” Van Vooren predicted.

The heads of the European Union's governments adopted a joint negotiating position on March 23 for establishing a trading relationship with Britain after Brexit, listing a series of restrictions to EU market access for British financial services.

--Additional reporting by Paige Long. Editing by Ed Harris.