

# Press Release

## NautaDutilh

### **NautaDutilh ranked as leading M&A adviser by value of transactions in the Netherlands**

with continued growth predicted

25th January 2007 – In a record year for mergers and acquisitions, NautaDutilh, the largest independent Benelux law firm, has been ranked as the top legal adviser to Dutch M&A deals in 2006 in league tables released yesterday (24th January) by Overfusies.nl, the Dutch corporate information provider. The Overfusies 2006 Annual Report database recorded 688 Dutch transactions up 17% by volume on 2005 and up 63% to a total value of €125bn.

NautaDutilh dominated the league tables heading up the key “Top 5 deals by value” with transaction values of €42.75bn, Mittal Steel lead partner Gerard Carrière listed second in the “Top Lawyers” table and a listing in the “Number of transactions” table with 33 deals in 2006.

The take over by the Dutch listed Mittal Steel nv of steel company Arcelor was by far the biggest transaction in 2006 at €34,5 billion and Mittal Steel was advised by NautaDutilh. The firm was also involved in numerous other high profile M&A transactions with leading international companies such as ABNAMRO, ING, Vedior, TNT, ING Groep, SNS Reaal, Stork, Ten Cate, Endemol, PCM and DSM. NautaDutilh also advises several private equity houses in and outside the Netherlands including Blackstone, Warburg Pincus, NPM Capital and HAL..

Commenting on the Dutch M&A market Hein Hooghoudt, senior M&A partner at NautaDutilh said: “The interest in both the corporate and financial sectors in mergers & acquisitions in the Netherlands was huge in 2006 and we expect that this will not change this year. Private equity funds are involved at about 20% of the deals and their share is growing but listed companies are increasingly involved. The present trend is that listed companies are being acquired and corporates are considering if they have better strategic options going private.”

Gerard Carrière, NautaDutilh corporate partner added: “With filled war chests there is a keen interest from both corporates and funds in transactions but clearly there is also a search for quality in all sectors of the market”

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## **About NautaDutilh**

NautaDutilh is one of the leading independent law firms in the Benelux and one of Europe's pre-eminent law firms. It is the largest law firm in the Benelux market with 400 lawyers, civil law notaries and tax advisers in offices in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Luxembourg, Brussels, London and New York. NautaDutilh works in close cooperation with leading law firms worldwide on a non-exclusive basis. The firm provides a broad range of high-level legal services and advises a wide variety of clients in high complex transactions and legal issues.

The London office consists of 10 lawyers handling the Dutch aspects of cross border corporate and finance transactions, with particular expertise in private equity, leveraged finance, capital markets and restructuring.

NautaDutilh is recognized by the major international legal directories, The European Legal 500 and Chambers' Global Directory, both of which recommend NautaDutilh as a leading firm in the Benelux markets.

Website: [www.nautadutilh.com](http://www.nautadutilh.com)

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