

Freshfields partner and former federal judge join BLOMSTEIN as Of Counsel

Press release

April 14, 2016

BLOMSTEIN is pleased to announce that Reinhart Rüsken has joined the firm and Dr. Hans-Joachim Prieß will join the firm as of 1 May 2016. Both will act as Of Counsel and assist BLOMSTEIN's clients particularly in international trade and public procurement matters.

Reinhart Rüsken (68 years) is a highly respected customs and excise taxes lawyer and a former judge at the German Federal Tax Court (*Bundesfinanzhof*). He started his career as a judge in 1978 in Hamburg and from 1995 to 2014, was a member of the 7th chamber of the *Bundesfinanzhof*, which is responsible for customs, excise taxes, and market organisation law. Reinhart retired as a judge in 2014 and has since then acted as an attorney for clients in various sectors.

Reinhart contributes to many standard pieces of legal literature in his area of expertise, such as Klein on the German Fiscal Code (*Abgabenordnung*), as well as *Dorsch* on Customs Law and of the Journal for Customs and Excise Taxes (*Zeitschrift für Zölle und Verbrauchsteuern*), both of which he is editor of. In addition, he is the author of numerous publications and regularly speaks at conferences.

Dr. Hans-Joachim Prieß (58 years) is one of the most renowned trade and public procurement lawyers in Germany. He has been a partner with Freshfields from 1994 until the end of April 2016. He worked in the Brussels and Berlin offices of Freshfields. The Berlin team left Freshfields in March 2016 to set up BLOMSTEIN together with colleagues specialised in antitrust and competition law.

Hans-Joachim was head of Freshfields' Public Procurement Group, and was constantly ranked in the first tier for public procurement and international trade law by the national and international press. He has advised and represented clients across Europe, including governments

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on public procurement legislation. Hans-Joachim has also represented many clients before the Euro-pean Court of Justice and the German procurement review bodies. He was a member of two expert commissions at the Federal Ministry of Economics tasked with the advancing of public procurement law and implementing the new EU Public Procurement Directives into German law. Hans-Joachim has been a board member of forum vergabe e.V., the German association for procurement, since May 2009 and is currently the deputy chairman of the board.

Pascal Friton, a trade and public procurement partner at BLOMSTEIN, said:

“We are delighted to welcome Reinhart and Hans-Joachim to BLOMSTEIN. Their appointments substantially strengthen our ability to provide first class trade and public procurement advice to our national and international clients. Our clients will benefit from Reinhart’s expertise and experience as one of the most influential German trade law judges and his litigation experience. We are extremely proud to be able to work with Hans-Joachim again, who has been a great mentor while we were at Freshfields.”

For further information please contact Pascal Friton (pascal.friton@blomstein.com) or Roland Stein (roland.stein@blomstein.com).

BLOMSTEIN is specialised in regulatory and competition law. We advise our international client base on public procurement and trade law as well as on antitrust/competition, state aid law and compliance. Our firm is based in Berlin.

For further information, please visit www.blomstein.com.