

Partner, Paris

Mergers and Acquisitions; Capital Markets



T: 33.1.55.27.11.27
arash.attar@skadden.com

Education

LL.M., Columbia University
School of Law, 2006

M.Jur., University of Oxford, 2000

Maîtrise, University of Paris I –
Pantheon Sorbonne, 1999

Bar Admissions

Paris
New York

Languages

French
English
Spanish
Persian

Arash Attar-Rezvani focuses on complex cross-border public and private M&A transactions, strategic alliances and business partnerships. His professional experience also includes counseling on corporate governance and shareholder activism matters, as well as on post-M&A litigation and arbitration.

Mr. Attar-Rezvani has been selected as one of 10 Rising Stars of the Paris bar by *Décideurs Juridique* and has since been recognized by *Chambers* for Corporate/M&A High-end Capability, as well as in *The Best Lawyers in France* and *IFLR1000*.

Mr. Attar-Rezvani's representative experience includes:

Telecoms, Media and Technologies

- **Xavier Niel**, a French billionaire investor, through **Iliad Group**, his European telco, and **NJJ Holding**, his investment fund, in connection with: their participation in a \$220 million seed round in the "H" Company, a Paris-based AI startup; the acquisition of a minority stake in Swedish telecom operator Tele2 from Kinnevik AB, its historic anchor shareholder; a minority investment in Vodafone Group PLC; a minority investment in Millicom International Cellular SA; the acquisition of enterprise provider Jaguar Network; Radio Access Network sharing joint ventures with WindTre in Italy and with Digicel Group in the French Caribbean; a consortium acquisition of Tigo Senegal; and several other M&A matters including relating to fiber and internet access, and home automation
- **Criteo S.A.**, an adtech company based in Paris and listed on Nasdaq that provides the world's leading Commerce Media Platform, in its discussions with activist investor Petrus Advisers, which resulted in the nomination of an additional independent director to Criteo's board, and in connection with its acquisition of shares and assets of IPONWEB
- **Silver Lake Partners**, a global leader in technology investing, in connection with its acquisition of Silae, a French cloud-based payroll software provider, as well as its buyout of MeilleurTaux, a leading financial services provider, from Goldman Sachs PIA, and in several related matters
- **Nokia** in its combination with Alcatel-Lucent through a public exchange offer in France and the United States
- **Axian Group**, a pan-African infrastructure and services conglomerate, in numerous acquisitions of, or investments in, telecom operators (in French Reunion and Mayotte, Senegal, Togo, Tanzania, Uganda and Madagascar), financial services and renewable energy projects (solar and photovoltaic, mini-grid, hydro-electric, among others)
- **Zayo Group Holdings, Inc.** in its sale of U.S. and European data center assets to Data-Bank Holdings (*IJGlobal Deal of the Year*)
- **Capgemini** in numerous transactions, including its acquisition of iGATE through a U.S. merger; aspects of its acquisition of Altran Technologies; its acquisition of Groupe Eurware from French nuclear company Areva; and several M&A transactions and strategic partnerships in Europe and emerging markets, including Brazil
- **Magnum Photos**, a photo agency founded by Robert Capa and Henri Cartier-Bresson, in connection with the first outside investment in the agency in its 70-year history
- **The French Republic** and **Société Générale** in connection with France Telecom's tender offer for Wanadoo
- **Talend** in its acquisition of Restlet, a cloud-based API design and testing platform
- **Gateway** in connection with its acquisition of Packard Bell and simultaneous acquisition by Acer

Luxury and Retail

- **L'Occitane Groupe** and **Reinold Geiger**, the majority shareholder of L'Occitane International, in a take-private bid for L'Occitane International valuing the company at €6 billion
- **L'Occitane International**, a global luxury cosmetics group based in Europe and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, in connection with its acquisitions of luxury home fragrance brand Dr. Vranjes Firenze; 83% of Sol de Janeiro Holdings, Inc.; and ELEMIS, as well as various other matters
- **LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton S.E.** in connection with its acquisition of Tiffany & Co.
- **Alexandre Vauthier**, a French haute couture and prêt-à-porter designer, in connection with several corporate matters
- **two investors** in connection with their acquisition of a combined 80% interest in Italy-based, animal product-free outerwear company Save the Duck
- **Polo Ralph Lauren** in connection with the development of its sale and distribution network in Europe
- **Kering** in connection with the sale of French furniture retailer Conforama to Steinhoff International
- **Coty Inc.** in its strategic partnership with KKR, including the carveout sale of 60% of its professional beauty and retail hair businesses to KKR. This transaction was named Private Equity Deal of the Year for the Americas by *IFLR* at its 2021 Americas Awards
- **Yves Rocher** in connection with its repurchase of Sanofi's 19.3% stake in the Yves Rocher Group
- **Quiksilver** in connection with its tender offer for Skis Rossignol and its subsequent sale of the Skis Rossignol and Roger Cleveland Golf businesses

Industrials and FIG

- **Technip Energies** on the creation of a joint venture with John Cockerill in the field of green hydrogen
- **Pfizer Inc.** in its \$95 million investment in Valneva S.E., a French biotech company listed on Euronext and Nasdaq, in connection with the update of the parties' Collaboration and License Agreement. Pfizer's investment represents 8.1% of Valneva's share capital
- **Mercedes-Benz** in its investment in European battery cell manufacturer Automotive Cells Company alongside founding joint venture partners Stellantis and TotalEnergies, with an objective to reach capacity of at least 120 GW hours in Europe by 2030 for an investment volume of more than €7 billion
- **Renault** in the proposed (but withdrawn) 50/50 merger transaction with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles
- **SCOR** in its successful defense against an unsolicited takeover proposal from COVEA

- **Air France** and **KLM** in the largest transatlantic joint venture in civil aviation history, involving Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines
- **WABCO Holdings Inc.**, a global provider of advanced driver assistance systems and autonomous driving technologies, in its acquisition by ZF Friedrichshafen AG
- **Stryker** in its acquisition of Vexim, a medical technology company, through a public tender offer followed by a squeeze-out
- **Sanofi** and **Merck** in their proposed divestment of animal health assets in connection with an aborted joint venture

Mr. Attar-Rezvani also has significant experience in international capital markets transactions and privatizations, including those of **Air France**, **France Telecom** (now **Orange**) and **Autoroutes du Sud de la France**, as well as IPOs, dual listings and/or debt offerings.

He regularly speaks, lectures and publishes on issues related to international business transactions and negotiations.

Mr. Attar-Rezvani chairs the Paris office's Diversity Committee.

Publications

"Métamorphose de l'activisme actionnarial : un encadrement européen est-il nécessaire ?" *Bulletin Joly Bourse*, March 28, 2024

"La capacité défensive des dirigeants à l'épreuve des principes directeurs du droit des OPA," *Corporate Finance and Capital Markets Law Review*, March 2023

"Activist Investing in Europe," *Activistmonitor*, 2023 and 2022

"Sociétés françaises cotées uniquement sur un marché boursier américain : quelles mesures de défense en cas de tentative de prise de contrôle hostile ?" ("French Companies Listed Exclusively in the US: Which Defense Measures May be Used in the Event of a Hostile Takeover Attempt?"), *Bulletin Joly Bourse*, May 2021

"Huawei définitivement écartée de la 5G en France?" *La Lettre des Juristes d'Affaires*, March 29, 2021

"La lente émergence des SPACs français," *CFNews*, March 24, 2021

"Entre restrictions sanitaires et innovations, le paysage des fusions-acquisitions se remodèle," Roundtable published in *Décideurs Magazine, 2020-2021 M&A Guide*, March 2021

"Activist Investing in Europe," *Activistmonitor*, 2021

"The binding nature of contracts challenged by COVID-19", *Fusions & Acquisitions Magazine*, July-August, 2020 (part 1) and September-October 2020 (part 2)

Co-author of the French Chapter on public takeovers in PLC's *Global Mergers & Acquisitions Handbook* (Since 2003)