

G&Co



grayston & company

a wee word of introduction



About G&Co

G&Co is an independent **law firm** specialising in all aspects of EU Regulatory law.

G&Co is based in Brussels Belgium, the city headquarters of the key institutions of the European Union.

Our work covers many diverse areas. The common theme running throughout is that we work on issues for which the EU is the decision-maker. In some areas this means working on administrative proceedings and investigations run by the European Commission (trade defence and anti-trust) in others it means working with national administrations of the 27 Member States which have been given responsibility to complete specific tasks on behalf of the EU, eg chemicals regulation, food regulation and product safety. Last, but by no means least, we work on proposals for EU legislation or changes in EU regulation which are sponsored by the EU Commission but require agreement of the Member States in order to be adopted.

Our client base is predominantly international. We often work with companies with no formal presence in Brussels or in the EU.

As our work often involves highly technical issues, we regularly work with, or create, multi-disciplinary teams of advisers. Above all we aim to provide our clients with effective advice and counselling which responds to their specific needs, remembering all the time that our role is to develop winning strategies for our clients not merely to offer legal advice.



Our Team



John Grayston
Member



Giani G. Pandey
Member



Peter Gjortler
Of Counsel



Peter Trepte
Of Counsel

A full CV of each member of our team is available on our website.

G&Co Areas of Expertise



Chemicals - REACH
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Procurement
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G&Co Areas of Expertise - **Chemicals REACH**

Maintaining chemical substances and products on the EU market means coming to terms with a range of EU regulatory regimes, most notably those focused on pesticides, biocides and the new wide-ranging REACH rules. The implementation and enforcement of these regimes is often business critical as non-compliant substances and products may encounter significant restrictions or even market exclusion.

G&Co provides advice and assistance to plough through the national and EU chemicals regulatory thicket. Our advice will underline how your specific needs fit in to the context of a bigger regulatory picture, notably competition/anti-trust and trade compliance. We are also conscious that these types of regulatory issues are frequently technical in nature and through our experience and skills we will endeavour to help your business in a practical and commercial manner.



G&Co Areas of Expertise - **International Trade**

Our lawyers have been acting on behalf of clients involved in EU and international trade disputes for many years.

At the international level our lawyers have advised on, or been involved in, dispute settlement proceedings under the WTO.

In relation to EU trade defence proceedings, our lawyers have represented clients in: anti-dumping, anti-subsidy and safeguard investigations. They have also advised clients on bringing proceedings before the European Courts for judicial review of the decisions of the EU institutions.

Nationally, our lawyers have been involved in all aspects of administrative appeals against rulings of national customs as well as bringing proceedings before national courts.

We also advise and coordinate the representation of clients in relation to contractual disputes, arbitration and litigation proceedings in all Member States of the EU.



G&Co Areas of Expertise - **Procurement**

G&Co's involvement in public procurement covers both advice and representation regarding compliance with national and international regulatory systems and with the broader procurement reform concerns of transition and developing economies.

In the case of international regulated procurement, G&Co's lawyers have advised both public and private sector clients on the impact of, and compliance with, UK and EC procurement rules and related areas as well as on the application of the GATT/WTO Agreements on Government Procurement and the effect on the procurement rules of the EC's preferential trade arrangements, notably in the CEECs.

Donor funded projects have been conducted to draft procurement implementation rules and regulations for the public and utilities sectors, to draft standard-form tender and contract documents and operating guidelines for tender preparation and evaluation, to create and implement training programmes for central, regional and local government, to establish central procurement monitoring offices and review bodies, to set up a simplified arbitration system for procurement in the construction industry and procurement review mechanisms.

Both in the CEECs and elsewhere, G&Co has expertise in setting legislative priorities, coordinating with government departments, drafting legislation, drafting standard form tender and contract documents and operating guidelines, ensuring compatibility of national laws with applicable international provisions, setting up enforcement processes, preparing and presenting training courses for government officials and preparing training manuals.



G&Co Areas of Expertise - **Competition**

Competition law is one of the most visible and feared (if not always respected) set of EU rules affecting the conduct of business. The growth in importance of competition law within the EU over the last 20 years is phenomenal. It has moved centre stage in the decision-making processes of all international businesses and many national and local businesses also. Compliance with competition law requires much more than remembering simple, basic rules - it requires a detailed understanding of how such rules should be applied in the specific sector in which individual businesses operate.

Our lawyers have considerable experience, across many sectors in the following areas of EU competition law: • EU Merger Control - *acting both on behalf of notifying parties and for interested (third) parties* • Complaint Procedures • Investigations - *including dawn raids* • Judicial appeals to the European Courts • State aid policy.

In addition our lawyers have specific experience of applying EU competition law in the following sectors: • maritime transport • air transport and ground handling • rail transport • nuclear • former ECSC products • industrial and chemical products.

With the ongoing decentralisation of EU competition policy and the growing importance of the role and work of national competition authorities, our lawyers are increasingly called upon to advise and/or coordinate the provision of advice at both EU and national levels. Our recent work has involved advising in connection with proceedings, investigations or actions in: United Kingdom, France, Germany, Romania, Italy and Belgium.



G&Co Areas of Expertise - **Customs Law**

Our expertise in the area of Customs law stems from the centralised legislative and policy functions carried out by the EU and the European Commission in particular.

Those who already trade with the EU will know that customs rules are implemented nationally and therefore only in the most serious of disputes will issues come to Brussels for adjudication.

We have therefore established an extensive network of locally based contacts throughout Europe, who have practical customs skills and experience and who are able to contribute to the creation of national, regional or pan-European strategies to resolve disputes or manage change.

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At an EU level our lawyers have experience of acting in disputes concerning:

- Classification
- Rules of origin
- Quotas and other import based restrictions
- Valuation.



G&Co Areas of Expertise - **Market Access and Regulation**

The EU applies a plethora of bilateral and regional trade agreements to grant unprecedented access to the EU market. However, the rules governing that access are complex.

Our lawyers advise clients on substantive and tactical issues of EU market access, such as restrictive standards, product safety regulation, unfair subsidies and trade protection measures.



G&Co Areas of Expertise - **Compliance and Training**

The response of companies to the growing regulatory burden is to find effective ways to inform their staff and management of their compliance obligations. Compliance and training are often thought to be simple products to buy in as a commodity to support these objectives. We work with companies who understand that compliance and training programmes need to be customised to suit their specific needs and business model to be at all effective.

We work closely with other organisations who are active leaders in the field of compliance. In particular, John Grayston is a member of the Board of Advisers of Integrity Interactive, one of the most successful providers of quality e-learning compliance products.

We also act as external counsel to a number of major companies advising on the design, development and implementation of detailed face-to-face training programmes. In respect of this work we can call upon years of experience of working with colleagues and independent experts to deliver customised training products to governments, agencies, legislatures and the judiciary of the majority of the new EU Member States.

In summary we see compliance training as more than a risk management product and as a fundamental tool of management to be used in engineering change, development or integration.



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Legal Notice:

The firm is regulated both by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and by the Brussels Bars.
A list of our lawyers' names and their professional qualifications is available for inspection at the above office.

Disclaimer:

Grayston & Company provides specialist legal advice from Brussels on all aspects of EU Regulatory law.
Details of our skills and specialist lawyers are available on the G&Co website. G&Co articles do not constitute legal advice.

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