CORPORATE LAW AND PRACTICE OF THE NETHERLANDS

LEGAL, WORKS COUNCILS AND
TAXATION
Second Edition

by Steven R. Schuit (Ed.)

ALLEN & OVERY LEGAL PRACTICE

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CORPORATE LAW AND PRACTICE OF THE NETHERLANDS

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Taxation by Jan A. Ter Wisch

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Niels R. van de Vijver, Securities Regulation in the Netherlands, second edition (2000)

> Peter V. Eijsvoogel and Hendrik Jan de Ru, Dutch Telecommunications Law (2000)

PREFACE

This book was written to provide business executives, bankers, accountants and lawyers from other jurisdictions with a solid understanding of the intricacies of Netherlands' corporate law. Corporate law is an essential ingredient for most business and financing transactions. The differences for each country are many and can be extremely treacherous. Consequently, this book concentrates on these differences, with special focus on practical business implications. Since there are currently no other similar publications in the English language, this book has also been used increasingly not only by lawyers but by many others, such as academics, students from foreign countries and governmental organisations. For these users we have slightly adjusted the format of this book but without losing sight of its original objective, which is to provide concise and practical information about these areas of Netherlands' law.

Barbara Bier has revised and updated the corporate law chapters, which dated from 1998. She is a valued lecturer at several institutions, including the tough in-house course on corporate law for new Dutch Allen & Overy lawyers (Allen & Overy University). Her long experience as a practising deputy civil law notary and her excellent teaching capabilities formed an ideal background for the revision of these first 12 chapters. The other chapters on Works Councils and Taxation were revised by my partners Leonard Verburg and Jan Ter Wisch respectively.

This book inevitably contains some generalisations and should not be considered a substitute for legal advice in any particular circumstances.

This book states the law as of 1 May 2002.

Steven R. Schuit

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Steven R. Schuit has been a partner with Allen & Overy since January 2000. Prior to that he had been a partner since 1974 with Allen & Overy's predecessor in the Benelux, the law firm Loeff Claeys Verbeke. He had been that firm's resident partner in New York City for ten years. Mr Schuit has extensive experience with M&A and joint ventures, particularly cross-border. He is also an expert in privatizations, especially in the energy and telecom sector. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association and founded and subsequently headed Loeff's New York office from 1980 to 1989. Mr Schuit is part-time Professor of International Commercial and Financial law at the law faculty of the University of Utrecht and is Editor-in-Chief of "Dutch Business Law" (loose leaf, Kluwer) and the author of "M&A in the Netherlands" (Kluwer, 1996). steven.schuit@allenovery.com

Barbara Bier graduated from Leiden University in both civil law and notarial law. She practised company law for many years at one of the major Dutch law firms. As such she advised clients from all over the world on mergers and acquisitions, on setting up Dutch holding and finance structures and on IPOs. Presently she is a lecturer at the Allen & Overy corporate university and various other institutions. She has several publications in her name. Also, she is writing her PhD thesis on the subject "Distributions on shares".

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Leonard G. Verburg has been a partner with Allen & Overy since January 2000. He was a partner with Benelux law firm Loeff Claeys Verbeke from 1987. He is head of the employment law department of the Amsterdam office. He graduated from Leiden University in 1979 and has experience of a wide range of employment law-related matters such as individual and collective dismissals, strikes, negotiation with unions and employment contracts (both in an advisory role and regarding litigation). In particular, he has ample knowledge and experience of works council issues. He is a member of the editorial board of two of the leading Dutch employment law reviews and of the standing advisory committee on employment law of the Dutch Bar Association. He is the author of various publications in the area of employment law and works councils.

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SELECTED WEBSITES

Corporate Governance

http://www.ecgn.ulb.ac.be/ecgn/codes.htm
Peters Report & recommendations
http://www.ecgi.org/codes/menu_europe.htm
All European corporate governance codes and principles

Socio-Economic Council (SER)

www.ser.nl

Tasks; Labor market advices, incl. Explanation of "Dutch Polder Model"

Belastingdienst (Dutch Revenue Service)

http://www.belastingdienst.nl/2001/buitenland_uk/frame.htm Tax and customs info, forms & downloads

Dutch Association of Tax Lawyers

www.nob.net Comments legislative work

International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation

www.ibfd.nl General international tax site

Authority Financial Markets (formerly "STE")

www.autoriteit-fm.nl Institutions;Investors;Notifications;Registers

De Nederlandse Bank

www.dnb.nl

National Bank; supervisions & policies

EuroNext (Stock Exchange)

www.euronext.com

Indices; Market & Listing Rules; Derivatives (incl. contingency plans)

European Union

http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/company/company/index.htm Official Journal, Treaties, Regulations, Case Law, links re. Company Law

SELECTED WEBSITES

Netherlands Arbitration Institute (NAI)

www.nai-nl.org
Arbitration and Minitrage Rules

T.M.C. Asser Institute

http://www.asser.nl/ica/indxica.htm International Commercial Arbitration

Utrecht Law School Library

www.library.law.uu.nl International Commercial Arbitration General info; references

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