

NNDKP assists AAylex Group in securing a 20 million euro financing for the Group's expansion in Romania and in the acquisition of Banvit Foods Romania



Nestor Nestor Diculescu Kingston Petersen (NNDKP) successfully assisted AAylex Group, one of the leading Romanian players in the food industry, controlled by entrepreneur Bogdan Stanca as majority shareholder, in securing the funds necessary for the Group's expansion in Romania through the acquisition of Banvit Foods Romania.

The AAylex Group, having former enterprise Avicola Buzau as its starting point, covers various operations ranging from genetics, feed production, breeding, incubation, broiler chicken farming to slaughtering and the distribution of processed chicken meat and value-added chicken meat products, under the Cocorico brand name. The acquisition of Banvit Foods, one of the leading producers of feed and “day old chicks” in Romania, will enable AAylex to optimize the operations of the Group, through a vertical integration of its activities “from farm to fork”.

NNDKP assisted AAylex in connection with two separate components, which were handled concurrently. The first component entailed securing the financing, and the second one implementing the transaction for the acquisition of full ownership of Banvit Foods.

The financing of approximately EUR 20 million was granted in the form of a syndicated loan by CEC Bank and EximBank. In addition to funding the acquisition of an ownership interest in Banvit Foods, AAylex will use the loan to finance the day-to-day operations of the group of companies.

The assistance provided in connection with the acquisition of Banvit Foods entailed structuring the documents of the transaction, negotiating them with the shareholders of Banvit Foods, offering support in order to fulfill the conditions precedent agreed upon by the parties for the purposes of the transaction, and also taking all necessary actions in the closing stage of the transaction. Furthermore, **NNDKP** assisted AAylex before the Competition Council with a view to obtaining a favorable decision in relation to the concentration resulting from this acquisition.

The **NNDKP** team assisting AAylex was coordinated by **Valentin Voinescu**, Partner (Banking and Finance Practice), **Razvan Vlad**, Partner (Corporate/M&A) and **Georgeta Dinu**, Partner (Competition), and included **Alexandru Ciambur** and **Catalina Dan**, Associates (Banking and Finance) and **Vlad Anghel**, Associate (Corporate/M&A).

“This acquisition is of strategic importance for AAylex Group and represents the successful culmination of the extensive efforts made in the last 5 years. We are confident that the acquisition will generate added value in the

following years, both from an internal and external perspective, while we will continue to offer premium quality experience to Cocorico clients”, stated **Cristian Barbulescu**, *Deputy CEO of AAylex Group*.

“We are pleased to have been able to successfully assist the AAylex Group, a leading local player in the food industry, in connection with its expansion plans. The transaction reconfirms that the agri-food sector is a flagship component of the Romanian economy, having significant growth potential, and we are honored that our team could support the efforts of visionary and business-savvy Romanian entrepreneurs”, said **Valentin Voinescu**, *Partner in the Banking and Finance practice*.

“The transaction concluded between AAylex and Banvit Foods supports the efforts of further consolidating the production and supply chain of the conglomerate run by Bogdan Stanca, in a fiercely competitive industry. We are proud to be able to play a part in this complex process – with ramifications also in terms of innovation and technology – which follows a long-term strategy”, said **Razvan Vlad**, *Partner in the Corporate / M&A practice*.

The **NNDKP** Banking and Finance team is constantly involved in complex projects concerning corporate finance, project finance, acquisitions of financial institutions and international and local companies, or public sector finance. Over the last three years alone, the members of the team were involved in financing transactions amounting to more than EUR 3.5 billion in sectors such as agribusiness, energy, real estate, infrastructure, FMCG, production or technology.

NNDKP’s Corporate / M&A practice has set benchmarks for over 30 years by advising on some of the most sophisticated high-profile transactions on the Romanian market. Currently a 22-lawyer team, one of the largest teams of M&A specialists on the local market, our lawyers were involved during the past 12 months alone in more than 35 noteworthy M&A deals, both domestic and cross-border.

NNDKP’s Competition team is a market leader in Romania. Our practice has a constant and robust portfolio of competition projects, including investigations, merger clearance projects, compliance projects, as well as court cases, where our representation often resulted in the reduction of the fines applied.