

PRESS RELEASE:**Leading European competition, tech regulation and litigation firm Geradin Partners opens in Germany with the hires of Thomas Funke and Thomas Höppner**

Brussels, Berlin and Cologne, 17 June 2025

Geradin Partners is expanding to Germany with the launch of offices in Berlin and Cologne led by Prof. Dr. Thomas Höppner and Dr. Thomas G. Funke, supported by a team of counsels and associates. With these new offices, which will open on 1 September 2025, Geradin Partners will have over 50 lawyers and economic advisors, including 15 partners in seven major business centres across the EU and the UK.

Founding partner, **Damien Geradin** comments:

“Germany is the largest economy in the EU and a key forum for public competition law enforcement, tech regulation and private antitrust litigation. Berlin is not only Germany’s capital but an epicentre of digital and media innovation, while Cologne is home to some of Germany’s largest companies, and is close to the Bundeskartellamt and competition courts. Both Thomas Funke and Thomas Höppner have proven themselves as thought leaders and have achieved successful outcomes for their clients; they will play an invaluable role in our European team of competition, regulatory and litigation specialists.”

Thomas Funke added:

“Geradin Partners has become the go-to European firm for complex antitrust and tech regulation cases. Its rise to a powerhouse for competition litigation, and the results delivered, are a testament to its outstanding expertise and innovative approach. Clients receive comprehensive competition and litigation solutions from some of the brightest minds across the EU and the UK, including several senior former competition agency officials. It is an honour and privilege to join this congenial team together with Thomas Höppner, whose cutting-edge work in big tech cases I have always admired greatly.

Clients will also benefit from the extensive experience of other founding team members, notably Counsel Ghazale Mandegarian-Fricke. She is a stellar competition expert; together we have been helping clients succeed in EU and German competition law matters for almost a decade.”

Thomas Höppner added:

“Geradin Partners established itself as a driving force in digital regulation and platform litigation, uniquely combining commercial acumen, industry knowledge and academic rigour. Joining this fully integrated international team of specialists is a tremendous opportunity to help clients succeed in the rapidly evolving world of digital markets. Germany is an increasingly important jurisdiction when it comes to enforcing the competition rules and the DMA, including for damages. I am delighted to join this winning team with Thomas Funke, my favourite among Germany’s leading competition litigators.

I am particularly happy that my entire team joins us at Geradin Partners, including Counsels Philipp Westerhoff and Johannes Wick, two next generation competition litigation stars who have advised clients in multiple complicated investigations and private enforcement actions.”

Both partners highlighted how much they enjoyed building the practices at their current firms and wished them well.

Dr. Thomas G. Funke is a competition and antitrust litigation leader with 20-plus years of experience. Praised for his “strong experience in damages claims“, he prevailed in the European Court of Justice and the German courts in *Hydrogen Peroxide*, *Coffee Roasters*, *Trucks*, and other high-stakes cartel damages actions. He successfully defended multinational corporations in *Holiday Pricing* and other European Commission and Bundeskartellamt investigations; he represents the European Commission in multi-billion merger control litigation in the European Court of Justice (C-464/23). He joins Geradin Partners from Osborne Clarke, where he served as International Co-Head of Competition, Mobility Sector Leader, and former member of the firm’s International Council.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Höppner is a competition and digital regulation expert. He has assisted clients in numerous high-stakes matters, including some of the most complex abuse of dominance cases involving Alphabet (e.g. *Google Shopping*, *Android*, *AdTech*, *Privacy Sandbox*, *News Showcase*), Apple (*ATT*, *App Store*), Amazon (*Buy-Box*, *MFNs*), and Meta (*Consent-or-Pay*). Thomas also represents individual companies and groups in high-stakes antitrust damages actions. Thomas joins Geradin Partners from Hausfeld, where he has also advised on the competition implications of the Digital Markets Act, the AI Act, the Data Act and the Media Freedom Act.

About Geradin Partners

Geradin Partners is the premier pan-European law firm for competition law and digital regulation in major cases throughout the EU and the UK. Following its German expansion it will have offices in Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Cologne, Helsinki, London and Paris. It is recognized by its clients and peers for its commitment to excellence, as well as for its innovative and strategic approach.

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