

European Counsel, Moscow

Capital Markets; Mergers and Acquisitions



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## Education

Law Degree, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, 2005

## Bar Admissions

Russian Federation

## Languages

Russian  
English

Inara Blagopoluchnaya focuses on corporate finance transactions, including equity and debt offerings, and M&A, private equity and joint venture transactions. She also has practiced law in Skadden's New York office, advising U.S. companies and other clients on a number of financings and investments.

Ms. Blagopoluchnaya's experience includes representing:

- Mercury Retail Group in its US\$1.2 billion sale of JSC Dixy Group to PJSC Magnit;
- the lead underwriters in the US\$400 million IPO of ordinary shares of Segezha Group PJSC on the Moscow Exchange;
- Fix Price in its US\$2 billion IPO of global depositary receipts and dual listing on the London and Moscow stock exchanges. This is the largest-ever IPO by a Russian retailer;
- Kismet Acquisition One, a special purpose acquisition company, in its US\$1.9 billion initial merger with Nexters Global Limited, the first-ever de-SPAC transaction involving a Russian company. As a result of the merger, Nexters will become a publicly traded company;
- Yandex N.V. in connection with the purchase of a 45% stake in Yandex.Market from Sberbank for US\$607 million, and the sale of a 25% stake in Yandex.Money to Sberbank for US\$35 million, resulting from the reorganization of two joint ventures between Yandex and Sberbank;
- JSC Gazprom in its listing on the Singapore Stock Exchange effected by the introduction of global depositary shares, representing ordinary shares of JSC Gazprom. This was the first listing "by introduction" of depositary receipts on the Singapore Exchange and the first listing by a Russian company on the Singapore Stock Exchange;
- Endo International plc in connection with its US\$8.1 billion acquisition of Par Pharmaceutical Holdings, Inc., which included the related acquisition financing, including a US\$2.3 billion offering of ordinary shares and a US\$1.64 billion Rule 144A/Regulation S high-yield offering of 6% senior notes;
- Sistema PJSFC and the Russia-China Investment Fund in the US\$157.3 million offering of more than 117 million existing shares in the Russian children's retailer Detsky Mir;
- the underwriters in the initial public offering of ordinary shares and listing on the New York Stock Exchange of Luxoft Holding, Inc., a provider of software development services and information technology solutions;
- QIWI plc, a provider of electronic payment services, in its US\$212 million initial public offering of American depositary shares with a listing on the Nasdaq Global Select Market, and its listing of ADS on the Moscow Exchange. QIWI plc was the first Russian company to complete an IPO under the U.S. JOBS Act and the first foreign company to list on a Russian stock exchange;
- SIBUR, the largest integrated gas processing and petrochemicals company in Russia/CIS/CEE, in connection with its debut five-year US\$1 billion 3.914% Rule 144A/Reg S bond issue listed on the regulated market of the Irish Stock Exchange;

# Inara V. Blagopoluchnaya

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- Fortress Investment Group in connection with capital raising transactions, including debt and equity offerings, for a number of its U.S. portfolio companies;
  - VTB Infrastructure Investments in its US\$2.5 billion acquisition of a 29.1% stake in Public Joint Stock Company Magnit from Magnit's founder and chief executive Sergey Nikolayevich Galitsky;
  - Tele2 Russia in its merger with the mobile operations unit of Rostelecom OAO. This deal received the M&A Deal of the Year award from Mergers.ru in 2014;
  - VimpelCom Limited in its US\$30 billion exchange offer for OJSC VimpelCom and its business combination with CJSC Kiyvstar G.S.M., a Ukrainian telecommunications company;
  - Nafta Moskva in connection with a number of transactions, including in its acquisition of a significant stake in OJSC Uralkali and acquisition of shares and ADS of OJSC Polyus Gold, a leading gold mining company in Russia;
  - Renault in its US\$1 billion strategic acquisition of a 25% plus one share stake in the leading Russian car manufacturer AvtoVAZ;
  - Marazzi Group and Permira Funds in the US\$1.5 billion sale of the Marazzi Group, a leading manufacturer and marketer of ceramic tile in Russia, the U.S., Italy, France and Spain, to Mohawk Industries, Inc.; and
  - the companies controlled by co-founders of Vkontakte.ru, Russia's largest social network website, in the sale of an indirect 48% interest in Vkontakte.ru to UCP Securities Limited.

Ms. Blagopoluchnaya is a member of the Moscow Exchange's Committee on Primary Equity Markets, which advises the Moscow Exchange and the Russian securities market regulator on how to improve the legislative and regulatory framework for equity capital markets in Russia.

Prior to joining the firm in 2005, Ms. Blagopoluchnaya worked for another major U.S. law firm.