



## Thomas Vanhee

Thomas Vanhee, founding partner of Aurifer Middle East Tax Consultancy DMCC, has more than 12 years of experience working with tax in law firms and also with governments in Europe and in the GCC region. He was involved in European tax policy projects, as well as in projects with several European governments.

As a tax policy specialist, Thomas was the Expert Study Lead for several VAT projects at the European Commission, namely the Cross-border VAT aspects of e-commerce and the special scheme for small enterprises.

Thomas was also heavily involved in the drafting of the Saudi VAT law legislation and in the implementation of VAT with the Ministry of Finance of the United Arab Emirates.

Other recent achievements of Thomas include VAT implementation projects, impact assessments and transaction mapping for several GCC businesses, assisting a Swedish bank on the purchase of debt portfolios from utilities companies, sale of the most important government revenue building and bonds issuance, analysis of possible VAT savings for an insurance company, the improvement of the tax position of a French subsidiary of a Russian bank and assistance with the acquisition of the biggest stock exchange corporation worldwide.

Furthermore, Thomas also teaches VAT in the first Tax LL.M in the Gulf at Paris Sorbonne Abu Dhabi. He also joined his former university, the renowned Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, in teaching an introductory course on tax law to master students and currently lectures at the DIFC Academy of Law.

Thomas also publishes regularly in international books and tax technical magazines and is a regular speaker at international events.

Thomas holds a law degree of the Catholic University of Leuven (cum laude) and a tax masters degree of Solvay Business School (magna cum laude). He is hands-on, proactive and combines an extensive technical skill set with a sound understanding of what makes businesses tick. Thomas is native speaker in Dutch and French and fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese (written and oral).



### **Laurent Bertin**

Laurent Bertin is a tax lawyer with 7 years of experience, including 2 years in the VAT department of a renowned French law firm, followed by more than 4 years in a multinational French CAC 40 company dealing with national and international tax matters, and almost 1 year at Aurifer.

As a group tax adviser for Capgemini, Paris he dealt with European and Non- European VAT, Direct Tax and specialized in French VAT. His accomplishments include creation of courses on VAT, VAT research and advice regarding restructuring operations within the Group, day-to-day VAT advice and internal VAT policy drafting.

He has experience with cross border transactions analysis, legal and jurisprudential monitoring, determination of BEPS consequences and judicial decisions regarding VAT regime for Multinational Groups, treatment of various issues regarding VAT regime for cross border services and goods transactions.

He is currently working as an adviser at Aurifer, where he provides GCC and international businesses with advice regarding VAT and direct taxes.

Laurent is a Paris Bar certified lawyer, LL.M graduate from McGill University, Tax law M2 graduate from Paris II University. He is a native speaker in French and fluent in English (oral and written).