

**Press Release**

Paris, 4th October 2016

**FTPA Launches its London Office**

**The French firm FTPA strengthens its international practice with the opening of its new office in London on the 4th of October 2016. Eniga de Montfort, appointed partner, joins the firm and will manage the office alongside Rajeev Sharma Fokeer (partner). Their practice will primarily focus on international transactions and arbitration.**

The launch of the London office has been in the pipeline for a few years. The firm’s choice to open in London has taken on even more legitimacy in a post-Brexit context.

Eniga de Montfort (Solicitor) joins as a partner of FTPA’s London office after having practiced at FTPA in Paris during a secondment in 2009 and will be in charge of developing the corporate practice in London. As for Rajeev Sharma Fokeer (Avocat), he will be in charge of developing the international arbitration practice. The development of the London office will initially focus on these two practice areas, while also advising London-based clients on a broad range of business law issues.

Rajeev Sharma Fokeer says « *Our local presence will strengthen the connections with our local correspondents (solicitors and barristers) and with the international business, finance and arbitration world. We aim to develop and nurture strategic partnerships with our clients and English and Anglo-saxon prospects, as well as our French clients in England*».

Although the United Kingdom is still an attractive zone for French and international companies, the British market and culture are still very challenging, especially in an economic and legal context that has become more complex since the Brexit announcement. *“Our knowledge and understanding of both the English and French legal systems is a real asset for our clients in successfully achieving their business projects”, comments*Eniga de Montfort.

Philippe Pochet, partner and co-founder of FTPA, adds, “*The opening of an office in London, in the heart of the City, sends a strong message which confirms that the DNA of FTPA, a firm with multicultural teams and 13 different working languages, is truly international. In recent years, we developed specific regional initiatives, with the creation of a Turkish Desk and an Iranian Desk, as soon as the diplomatic agreements were signed in 2015.* "A physical presence in the United Kingdom is a natural evolution of our international offering to our clients and demonstrates our genuine commitment in this sense”.

**About Eniga de Montfort**

Eniga de Montfort specialises in cross-border M&A, private equity, joint ventures and restructurings. She has a wealth of experience in these disciplines with a particular emphasis on advising Francophone clients on their inward investment strategy in the UK. As a Franco-British transactional solicitor, Eniga de Montfort frequently works between London and Paris and she has a strong understanding of the legal, linguistic and cultural challenges that arise on cross-border transactions. Eniga de Montfort is an active member of the French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain and UK Trade & Investment and regularly speaks on legal issues facing French entrepreneurs, SMEs and large companies doing business in the UK.
Eniga de Montfort also serves as a director and trustee on the board of the charitable organisation, The Tamil Association of Professionals.

Eniga de Montfort graduated from Queen Mary, University of London and Université de Paris II Panthéon-Assas in English and European Law before being admitted as a solicitor in September 2007. Prior to joining FTPA, Eniga de Montfort worked at US law firm Bryan Cave.

**Languages**: French, English, and Tamil

**About Rajeev Sharma Fokeer**

Rajeev Sharma Fokeer is a partner of FTPA since 2010. He was admitted to the English Bar as a Barrister in 2002 and was later admitted as Avocat à la cour to the Paris Bar in 2005. He was recently also admitted to the Bar of Mauritius, his native country, in 2008.
Rajeev’s work is essentially international in nature, involving a wide range of cross-border commercial matters including International Contracts, as well as Domestic and International Litigation and Arbitration, one of his preferred practice areas, Mergers and Acquisitions and Corporate Insolvency.

Rajeev holds an honours degree in English law (King’s College, London) and a maîtrise degree in French Law (Université de Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne). He also obtained a French masters degree in Litigation, Arbitration & ADR (Université de Paris II Panthéon Assas).

**Languages**: French, English, and Hindi

**About FTPA:**

FTPA is one of the oldest independent law firms in France and provides strategic legal advice to a clientele of high profile companies.

Established in 1972, FTPA has enjoyed sustained demand-driven growth since the turn of the century and currently comprises a team of 60 practitioners with extensive and complementary expertise. The firm serves and assists its clients – businesses and multinational groups – in France and internationally, in all aspects of their operations, day-to-day business and on complex litigation matters.

FTPA operates a team of highly specialized lawyers in their respective practice areas, with complementary skills, service minded and with a strong sense of business.
The languages spoken within the firm are: English, Arabic, Italian, Swedish, Russian, Spanish, Bulgarian, German, Turkish, Dutch, Hindi, Tamil and Persian.

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