

## A&O named Global Law Firm of 2001

*A&O is undoubtedly a pre-eminent force throughout its sphere of operations, says the leading client guide to international law firms*

The firm has been named Global Law Firm of 2001 by *Global Counsel 3000*, the leading client guide to international law firms. The citation states that the award is for “outstanding client service and strategic development over the last 12 months”.

*Global Counsel 3000* says: “Through piecemeal growth the firm has cherry-picked the components necessary to develop a top level global banking and finance practice. Avoiding the destabilising effects of a major merger, it has managed to keep the focus firmly on the provision of consistent quality rather than quantity, exemplified by the hire of Dan Cunningham in New York which lifted enormously both the profile and kudos of the firm’s already substantial US practice group. It is undoubtedly a pre-eminent force throughout its entire European, Asian and US sphere of operations.”

A&O receives further commendation in the current issue of *Global Counsel* magazine, sister publication to *Global Counsel 3000*, which describes A&O as achieving consistent gains because of its policy of selective growth.

“Allen & Overy’s strategy has certainly paid dividends,” the magazine states in its review of 2001. “The past year has seen it consolidate its European growth and further develop its New York practice. Dan Cunningham’s step across, along with the hire of a number of other local partners, has brought the firm prominent derivatives and capital markets expertise.”

John Rink says that the award for Global Law Firm of 2001 is recognition that the firm is taking the right steps to remain one of the most successful law firms in the world. “Our strength lies not just in our international spread, but in the balance of our practice. We are in such a strong position because our balance of

product goes right across the spectrum.

“This is an ideal opportunity to thank everyone in the firm for their hard work and their support for each other in

2001. As *Global Counsel* says in its citation, the firm is firmly focused on consistent quality, not quantity. The quality of our people consistently wins through. I wish you all a happy and a prosperous new year.”



**John Rink:** “The quality of our people consistently wins through”

◆ A&O also scored highly in research among 3,000 leading companies. See page 2.

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**CYCLING AROUND THE WORLD**  
 From Brussels to India... by bike  
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# I want to ride my bicycle

Christina Schots, secretary to the Financial Director in Belgium, has taken a sabbatical year to go from Brussels to India... on a bike! The trip started at the beginning of June 2001 and Christina is accompanied by Marc Mertens on a trip expected to take a year.

Up until now, Christina and Marc (pictured right) have backpacked several times using public transport to Thailand, Ecuador, Mexico, Guatemala and Morocco. They have also undertaken a couple of motorcycle holidays in Europe.

This time, however, they wanted to do a long overland trip to experience the changes in landscape and culture gradually. If you travel by plane you start out at one place and a couple of hours later you get off the plane in a completely different world. The couple wanted to avoid that this time.

Christa says: "We both wanted to see India, so the route was quickly decided upon. But on



our previous travels, using public transport restricted the possibilities of where we could go. Out of the way places were hard to reach, and you are bound by departure and arrival times and days. We briefly considered driving by car, or even motorcycle, but this can be very expensive. Crossing borders can be an administrative and financial burden."

So the trip by bike was decided upon.

Their route will take them through the following countries: Belgium, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and India. They have roughly planned out their route, but it can (and no doubt will) change on the way, depending on information from the people they meet, both locals and travellers.

We wish Christa and Marc the best of luck and look forward to hearing from them when their feet are back on level ground!

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