

## Crowell & Moring Hires Disputes Atty From Allen & Overy

By **Dawood Fakhir**

*Law360, London (June 24, 2022, 5:26 PM BST)* -- Crowell & Moring has hired Werner Eyskens as a partner at its Brussels office as the firm strengthens its international disputes resolution practice.

Eyskens joins Crowell from Allen & Overy, where he worked for more than 28 years. He joined Crowell on June 10, the firm said.

The veteran lawyer has almost 30 years of experience in handling multinational arbitrations and international commercial litigation, his new employer said on Tuesday.



*Werner Eyskens*

Kristof Roox, co-managing partner of Crowell & Moring's Brussels office, highlighted Eyskens' expertise in contractual disputes, post-merger proceedings, aviation and construction projects in international arbitration. "He is an extremely effective advocate and cross-examiner, and a go-to lawyer for complex national and cross-border disputes," Roox added.

Eyskens said his practice aligned well with Crowell's infrastructure and construction disputes practice.

"I was attracted to the firm because of its international depth, fully integrated arbitration team of lawyers around the world and reputed Brussels office with strong litigation practices," he said in a statement.

Asked what attracted him to Crowell, Eyskens told Law360 he was looking for something on a smaller scale, but international and with a focus on the local Belgian market.

"I am personally convinced that, certainly, [in] the line of work that I do — litigation and arbitration — it's very important to have a strong local practice too," he said. A significant part of the client work in arbitration involves components of Belgian law, he added.

"It's important to have that connection with the Belgian markets," he said. "That is something that led me to Crowell."

Eyskens said he thinks that Crowell considers Brussels and Belgium to be a bridgehead for the firm's developments in the European markets.

The lawyer spoke warmly of his time at Allen & Overy, and said he had stayed there for good reasons.

"It was something that took a certain time [for] me to come to that point," he said of his decision to leave. "I worked close to 30 years for A&O, which is a firm for which I have the greatest esteem — even though at this stage of my career I'm looking for something which is slightly different."

He added that Allen & Overy "became extremely successful, and still is, and I am very proud of the modest contributions I was able to bring to that. "[The firm] has become a very large global organization."

Eyskens is a board member of CEPANI, the Belgian Centre for Arbitration and Mediation, where he regularly sits as an arbitrator. He has also conducted arbitrations under the international court of arbitration, or ICC, the Singapore International Arbitration Center, the London Court of International Arbitration and the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes rules, Crowell & Moring said.

He has also been recommended by Legal 500 and Chambers for litigation and arbitration over the years, his new employer added.

Laurence Winston and Ian Laird, co-chairs of Crowell's international dispute resolution group, said Eyskens' skills compliment the law firm's practice in London and Doha, the capital of Qatar, and adds to its reach of international dispute resolution practice.

"I envision him working closely with the London office on arbitration disputes subject to English law," Winston added.

--Editing by Ed Harris.