

# ELIG adds to partnership in Istanbul

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Hakan Özgökçen

Turkish firm ELIG Attorneys at Law has promoted Hakan Özgökçen to its partnership, cementing its position as the largest competition practice in Istanbul.

Özgökçen, 34, has spent almost eight years at the firm as a senior associate. Before joining in 2007, he worked for three years at another Turkish firm, Gökkılıç Law Office.

He says it is a privilege to join the partnership at what he calls the top competition law practice in Turkey, and adds that he owes his thanks to his co-workers at the firm who have helped create the ideal work environment.

In 2014, he was part of the ELIG team that successfully represented Associated British Foods in a cartel investigation conducted by the Turkish Competition Authority. The authority closed its investigation without imposing fines on the company.

At ELIG he also helped represent flagship carrier Turkish Airlines in on-again, off-again abuse of dominance investigations in front of the Turkish authority and was also co-counsel to FMC in its acquisition of International Speciality Products Holdings' seaweed extracts business. The deal was cleared by the UK's Office of Fair Trading in 2008.

In other antitrust matters, he has acted for Coca-Cola, Tetra Pak, Nestlé, and Nokia.

Gönenç Gürkaynak, head of the competition practice at ELIG, says that Özgökçen is "one of the key members of our competition law department," adding that he is proud of the growth ELIG's competition team has experienced in recent years.

The promotion comes a year after ELIG strengthened its competition practice by promoting competition specialist K Kohran Yıldırım to the partnership. The firm now has three partners in the practice.

Özgökçen began his new role at the firm on 1 January.