



Press release - September 2025

HARLAY AVOCATS IS ACTING AS COUNSEL TO DEFACTO IN CONNECTION WITH A €16 MILLION FUNDRAISING ROUND.

Defacto, a Paris-based fintech company specializing in short-term financing for SMEs, has raised €16 million to accelerate its European expansion and open its platform to banks, factors, and credit insurers.

Founded in 2021 by Jordane Giuly, Morgan O'Hana, and Marc-Henri Gires, Defacto has already financed more than €1 billion for 17,000 European SMEs thanks to a completely redesigned credit infrastructure powered by artificial intelligence. Its technology enables financing to be granted in less than 30 seconds, addressing a major shortfall in access to short-term credit for SMEs.

In a context of widespread use of artificial intelligence, Defacto uses large language models (LLMs), notably to categorize transactions, extract customer data, and improve the reliability of credit analysis, thereby promoting compliance with the future European AI Act.

This €16 million fundraising round was carried out with La Maison Partners and Blast Club, alongside existing investors Northzone, Citi Ventures, Headline, and Global Founders Capital, who renewed their trust in the company. The funds will support the integration of new partners, including several approved electronic invoicing platforms.

The fintech is targeting profitability in the course of 2026. The company also benefits from a €300 million facility to support its lending activity, backed by Citibank and Viola Credit.

Thibault Chareton (partner), **Charlotte Striffler** (senior counsel), and **Diane Dewé** (associate) advised Defacto on this fundraising.

HOGAN LOVELLS (Hélène Parent, Gautier Valdiguié, and Romane Da Cunha) and D'ALVERNY (Guillaume Schmitt and Emma Pasquier) advised some of the investors.

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ABOUT HARLAY AVOCATS: Harlay Avocats is an independent international business law firm based in Paris. Founded in 1988, Harlay Avocats is an independent French law firm with a multidisciplinary team of lawyers who assist clients in France and abroad with most of their business law needs (day-to-day and special transactions). The corporate team at Harlay Avocats, led by Marie-Laure de Cordovez, Olivier Cognard, Thibault Chareton, and Salim Bencheikh, specializes in private equity, securities law, and mergers and acquisitions.