

Short biography - Sofie Maddens (Lic. Jur)

A Lawyer by training, Sofie has been involved in legal work in the telecommunications sector since 1989.

Since 1997, Sofie has been responsible for leading a team of high-level consultants of Sky Station International and co-ordinating in Europe the regulatory policy for HAPS, focusing in particular on IMT 2000. She was, amongst others, responsible for establishing the appropriate regulatory framework for HAPS within CEPT, within the relevant ITU- R study groups, and at the ITU WRC97, CPG 1999, WRC 2000, CPG 2002, and WRC 2003, thereby successfully leading the team's initiative to create the regulatory framework to allow HAPS as an alternative technology in the terrestrial component of IMT 2000 . Within the team, she was also responsible for managing the relationship in Europe with European organisations such as the CEPT, the European Commission and for coordinating the national regulatory work in the UK, France and Portugal.

She also serves as Senior Regulatory Policy Expert to the World Bank, the Telecommunications Development Bureau of the ITU and to private clients. Within this context, she has undertaken projects in various countries in Europe and internationally, having worked, amongst others in countries such as Morocco, Guinea Bissau, Djibouti, the Gambia, Sierra Leone and Oman, and advising on issues ranging from the strategy relating to the privatisation of the incumbent, to the setting up of the regulator or the definition of the regulatory matrix relating to the telecommunications sector. She has also given advice on the definition of an appropriate strategy for the licensing of mobile communications and has advised governments in various countries on legal texts and drafted their legal texts relating to telecommunications.