

Under the patronage of

Kingdom of Bahrain's Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL),
the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and
the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA)**



Fourth International Conference for a Euro-Mediterranean Community of International Arbitration

Including Training Sessions

Manama (Kingdom of Bahrain)

19 November 2017



By bringing together experts in international arbitration and investment, the conference aims to promote a sustainable Euro-Mediterranean arbitration community as part of a broader agenda for securing investments, key to stabilization and economic growth in the south and east of the Mediterranean region.

PROGRAMME

UNCITRAL / OECD / BCDR Joint Conference

The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel - Manama (Kingdom of Bahrain)

19 November 2017

For registration, please proceed to <https://goo.gl/UYPtkV>
For further information, please contact: events@bcdr-aaa.org

Registration of Participants (8:30–9:00)

Opening Ceremony (9:00–9:20)

Morning Sessions (9:20–13:00)

(9:20–9:30) Introductory remarks on the business and investment climate in the MENA Region
Diane Pallez-Guillevic, Policy Analyst, Middle East and African Division, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD

PANEL A (9:30–11:00) The impartiality and independence of arbitrators and the need to avoid conflicts of interest in international commercial arbitration

Moderator: **Sophie Nappert**, Arbitrator, 3 Verulam Buildings Chambers, London

Speakers: **Stefano Azzali**, Secretary-General, Milan Chamber of Arbitration; Director, ISPRAMED
Thomas Clay, Professor, Faculty of Law, Sorbonne University (Paris 1); Managing Partner, Clay Arbitration Office
Ahmed Ouerfelli, former Judge, Tunis

Following the speakers' presentations, time will be allowed for questions and comments from the floor.

Coffee Break (11:00–11:15)

PANEL B (11:15–12:45) Practical aspects of investment arbitration procedure and transparency

Moderator: **Sophie Nappert**, Arbitrator, 3 Verulam Buildings Chambers, London

Speakers: **Hussein Haeri**, Partner, Withers LLP, London
Michael Hwang, Chief Justice, DIFC Courts
Judith Knieper, Legal Officer, UNCITRAL

Following the speakers' presentations, time will be allowed for questions and comments from the floor.

(12:45–13:00) Concluding remarks on morning sessions
Nassib G. Ziadé, Chief Executive Officer, Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA); former Director, Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC); former Deputy Secretary-General (and Acting Secretary-General), ICSID

Business Lunch (13:00–14:00)

Afternoon Training Sessions (14:00–17:15)

SESSION A (14:00–15:30) Impartiality and independence of arbitrators

Goal: Identifying and addressing conflicts of interest arising in arbitration is a vital matter, of relevance to the judiciary and to lawyers acting either as arbitrator or as party representative.

This training session will build on the morning's presentations on this topic, with discussions of actual examples of circumstances giving rise to questions as to an arbitrator's impartiality or independence.

The panel will consider these topics with delegates, by reference to current rules and guidelines, including, among others, those contained in the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (Article 12) and the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules (Articles 11 to 13).

Trainers: **Adrian Winstanley**, Independent Arbitrator; former Director-General, LCIA
Nagla Nassar, Partner, Nassar Law, Cairo
Ismail Selim, Director, Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration

Coffee Break (15:30–15:45)

SESSION B (15:45–17:15) Investment arbitration procedure

Goal: This training session aims to inform the audience about:

- recommendations when facing a claim from an investor,
- issues to consider in relation to dispute resolution when preparing/signing an investment treaty or drafting/amending domestic legislation,
- the impact of multilateral investment treaties on the general legal framework for investments.

The key provisions and benefits of UNCITRAL instruments on transparency in treaty-based investor-state arbitration (the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency and the Mauritius Convention on Transparency) will be discussed during this session.

Trainers: **Antonio R. Parra**, former Deputy Secretary-General, ICSID
Dany Khayat, Partner, Mayer Brown, Paris
Jeremy Sharpe, Partner, Shearman & Sterling, London

Closing Remarks (17:15–17:30)

The conference will be held in English and Arabic with simultaneous interpretation.

Translation into French may be provided subject to sufficient demand. Please indicate your interest when registering.