

SYMPOSIUM

CURRENT INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Program

Friday 30 January 2026

9.30am-4.45pm

Amphithéâtre Saint-François de Sales

UcLy
Campus Alpes-Europe
25 rue de la Cité
74 000 ANNECY



Abstract

International arbitration is undergoing a period of change, marked by profound institutional transformations that are impacting both commercial and investment arbitration. The symposium 'Current Institutional Issues in International Arbitration' aims to provide a forum for collective reflection on these developments.

The first area of discussion is the now burning issue of establishing an appeal mechanism for international investment arbitration. This issue is currently one of the topics of in-depth work within UNCITRAL Working Group III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform). The UNCITRAL Working Group III is exploring new models to improve the predictability, efficiency and legitimacy of investor-state dispute settlement. Following a major initiative by the European Union in 2015, discussions are now focusing on the institutional feasibility and creation of such an appellate jurisdiction, its impact on stakeholders, and its possible links with other mechanisms such as the WTO Appellate Body or the ACWL.

The second theme addresses issues of impartiality, arbitrators' disclosure obligations and professional ethics that are particularly acute for arbitrators in the context of the increasing judicialization of arbitration. The development and adoption by UNCITRAL of an International Code of Conduct (UNCITRAL WG III) and the dissemination of the IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest demonstrate the arbitration community's sensitivity to these issues. The symposium will analyse the practical scope and limitations of these normative initiatives, while comparing doctrinal points of view and feedback from international practice.

The one-day conference will be organised around two panels, each bringing together academics, experts and practitioners. With half a day devoted to each theme, there will be an emphasis on interactive discussions. The event will be open to academics, legal professionals and students and will be available to follow online upon registration.

Symposium program

9.30-10.00 - Welcome (coffee & croissants)

10.00-10.30 - Opening words

Christophe HADJUR, Vice Rector for Research, Entreprise and Innovation.

Michel CANNARSA, Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Law

Marjolaine MONOT-FOULETIER, Professor, Head of the UCLy Research Group #6

10.30-11.00 - Introduction

Louis BERTIER Associate Professor, Lyon Catholic University and **Noam ZAMIR**, Associate Professor, Lyon Catholic University.

11.00-13.00 - Morning session

AN APPEAL MECHANISM FOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT ARBITRATION

Chairperson: **Krista NADAKAVUKAREN**, Vice-Director of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law.

- **Carlo GAMBERALE**, Counsellor, World Trade Organisation.
Jurisdiction, scope and standard of review by the WTO Appellate Body

- **Fernando PIEROLA**, Lawyer and Arbitrator, Advisory Centre on WTO Law.

An Arbitration Court for ISDS ? Lesson from WTO Dispute Settlement ?

- **Nikos LAVRANOS**, Secretary General, European Federation for Investment Law and Arbitration.

Which lessons should the MIC learn from the WTO dispute settlement system ? [online]

- **Diana ROSERT**, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD.

A policy perspective on ISDS reform within UNCTAD's work on investment treaties

Discussions and Q&A

13.00-14.30 - Lunch break

14.30-16.30 - Afternoon session

IMPARTIALITY AND ETHICS OF ARBITRATORS

Chairperson: **Nathalie POTIN**, Associate Professor, Lyon Catholic University.

- **Nicole CLEIS**, Legal Advisor, Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs.

Arbitrator Ethics in Investor-State Arbitration: Select Recent Case Law in light of the ICSID/UNCITRAL Code of Conduct for Arbitrators

- **Denis MOURALIS**, Full Professor of Law at Aix Marseille University, Attorney at the Paris Bar, Arbitrator.

Arbitrators' Ethics: a Few Basic Principles Based on the Law, Practice and Morality

- **Tunde OGUNSEITAN**, Founder and Arbitrator, Ogunseitian Arbitration.

Arbitrator ethics: whose subjective or objective ethical considerations ?

- **Philip LANDOLT**, Managing Partner, Counsel and Arbitrator, Landolt & Koch.

Are there really arbitrator duties to anyone other than the parties ?

Discussions and Q&A

16.30-16.45 - Conclusions

Gabriele RUSCALLA, Attorney at the Paris Bar, Le 16 Law.