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PLAYBILL - SEMINAR| Disputes prevention - resolution:

EUROPE to MOROCCO and SAUDI ARABIA, VENUES FOR THE 2030 AND 2034 FOOTBALL WORLD CUP

VIDEO SEMINAR 25. FEBRUARY.2025:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/H-2ssoZgB98?si=LvMtMUDGpNIwcU6>

WELCOME:

This Seminar organised by the Iberian Chapter EU Branch of CIArb, the Arbitration Section of the Madrid Bar Association and Ovoli Abogados Árbitros Romero, with the collaboration of CIArb EU Branch, CIArb Italian Chapter, CIArb Greek Chapter, Moving Arbitration Up, In Arbitration Hub, CIAR Global, Il Sextante, El Economista - Iuris Lex Buen Gobierno y RSC, the International Institute of Transport Mediation and Arbitration IIMAT and Volvo|Battinver as Gold Sponsor, hosted our Seminar on dispute prevention – resolution at the Auditorium located at street Serrano, 9 in Madrid, headquarters of the ICAM.

The seminar analyzed the growing importance of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in managing complex international infrastructure projects, particularly in the context of major



sporting events. The discussions emphasized the need for proactive dispute prevention and efficient resolution strategies in cross-border construction initiatives. The event brought together distinguished experts in arbitration, construction law, and sports infrastructure to address the complex

challenges of cross-continental development projects.

The seminar began with a welcome address by the Chair of the Iberian chapter of CIArb Nazareth Romero and Anna Iacovou Stylianou from CIArb, who emphasized the crucial role of international collaboration in major sporting infrastructure projects.



Their opening remarks set the tone for a day of intensive discussions on the intersection of law, construction, and international sports events.

A significant portion of the seminar was dedicated to exploring new multimodal transport routes, with particular emphasis on two transformative projects: the Gibraltar Tunnel and the Messina Strait development. Civil Administrator and Doctor of Law Julio Fuentes, alongside Civil Engineer Juan Pedro Aguilar, presented detailed insights into these ambitious infrastructure initiatives. As the experts pointed out, one of the legal challenges is that tunnels must be constructed in areas where freedom of navigation applies and there is a limit to the sovereignty of States.

The discussion was enriched by Antero Ovoli's presentation on the Mattei Plan, which outlined a comprehensive strategy for enhancing connectivity between Europe and Africa. Mattei Plan takes its name from Enrico Mattei among other things, founder of ENI. It's promoted and managed by the Italian Government, is based on the principles of the Mattei Project. The objective of the Mattei Plan is to build a new model of partnership with African nations and peoples. The Strait of Messina and the Mattei Plan, in their mutual complementarity, are giving a decisive boost to the concrete role of the Mediterranean Sea as a hub for the movement of people and goods.

The seminar then shifted focus to address construction and restructuring challenges for sports facilities across three continents.

Distinguished speakers Mohamed Raffa, FCI Arb, (Morocco), Ricardo Cuesta (Spain) Dragados S.A, and Fernando Messias (Portugal) MCI Arb, shared their expertise on managing complex construction projects in their respective regions.



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Mohamed Raffa highlighted the legal and technical challenges facing Morocco in the construction of highly complex infrastructures that must be completed within a relatively short timeframe of five years, considering the scale of the projects involved. In contrast, Ricardo Cuesta emphasized that most Spanish infrastructures are already built but face other challenges related to refurbishment and also highlighted the importance of correctly choosing the type of contract that best adapts to each scenario. The experts agreed on the necessity of collaboration among all stakeholders in the process, underscoring that the greatest successes are achieved when the construction company is involved from the outset in the design phase, providing solutions that often translate into efficiency and cost savings for the benefit of the project. Fernando Messias emphasized that implementing multi-tiered clauses that combine mediation and arbitration in all contracts, a proactive and comprehensive approach to dispute resolution can be achieved. Integration of collaborative contracts, arbitration agreements, and multi-stage clauses can significantly reduce the likelihood of disputes and effectively resolve any issues that may arise within a legal framework.

The experts also agreed to consider arbitration as an optimal means of conflict resolution in which the parties can present their case comprehensively, and the arbitrators are specialized in the construction business. Their presentations, moderated by Marta Martini, MCIArb, provided valuable insights into the practical challenges of implementing major sports infrastructure projects

A highlight of the event was an extensive roundtable discussion featuring prominent experts in various fields. Mr. Stelios Gregoriou, FCIArb, construction law expert, Chair Greek Chapter, addressed the foundations of construction contracts and key considerations when drafting arbitration



clauses in international construction contracts. The roundtable, moderated by Jose Jareño MCIArb, and José Maza, Arbitrator, explored innovative approaches to dispute resolution in international construction projects. The discussion particularly emphasized the importance of well-crafted arbitration clauses and effective dispute prevention mechanisms in cross-border infrastructure developments. Mr. Roberto Oliva, FCIArb, Honorary Secretary EU Branch, discussed environmental risk management and introduced different types of indemnity clauses that are usually included in contracts concerning infrastructural projects and how environmental risks are usually treated. Mr. Rafael Lobeto Lobo Presidente of IIMAT (International Institute of Mediation and Arbitration in Transport) presented on multimodal

transport. Mr. Luigi Cascone Chair Italian Chapter CEIA and AIA Committee Board, spoke about the credit base license for the construction business that has recently enter into force in Italy and also introduced how dispute boards are used in Italy to solve public contract disputes in Italy. Finally, Mr. Sebastián Mejía, FCIArb and TAS arbitrator, introduced the jurisdiction of the TAS and its ability to resolve any issues related to sports, which could also include construction disputes of sports facilities.

A brief summary on behalf Abdelkader Khalladi, FCIArb, was introduced by Nazareth Romero, regarding the World Cup 2034 in Saudi Arabia, The prevention of conflicts in the construction of sports facilities in Saudi Arabia is very much aware of the commitment to sustainability, an initiative that begins in 2021 with the Final Statement of the “Green Middle East” initiative summit. Saudi Arabia has to prepare for a major transformation, at least in 5 cities: Riyadh, Jeddah, Al Khobar, Abha, and NeomThe construction of new buildings and works has led to the launch of several projects: (1) Land Bridge project,- a high-speed railway connecting the Red Sea coast with the Arabian Gulf; (2) The Red Sea Project – luxury tourism (a luxury tourism destination); (3) Diriyah Gate Project- a cultural and historical development project that seeks to transform Diriyah into a global tourism destination.

The event concluded with an engaging Q&A session moderated by Enrique Arnaldo Benzos and Nazareth Romero, followed by closing remarks from Wuandy Vargas, MCIArb (Peru Chapter – Brazil Branch CIArb) and Ignacio Monedero, President of the ICAM Arbitration Court.



This seminar was meticulously designed by Antero Ovoli and received support from several prestigious institutions, including Madrid Bar Association (ICAM) and its Arbitration Section and the Iberian Chapter EU Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIARB), with significant support from the International Institute of Mediation and Arbitration in Transport (IIMAT).

The event also garnered support from various CIARB chapters, including the European, Italian, and Greek branches, as well as In Arbitration Hub and Moving Up Arbitration. Media coverage was provided by Il Sextante, El Economista Iuris & Lex Good Governance and RSC, Mujeres Líderes en Construcción, CIAR Global, and ANKAWA International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Center.

From the *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators* – CIARB, we have available the professional practice guides www.ciarb.org/resources/professional-practice-guidelines convinced that the improvement of understanding and prevention are allies of business success with the main objective: always evolving to solve.



At the end during networking, we enjoyed delicious wines from Wineries “Montes de Leza” courtesy of the Sponsor of the event [VOLVO | BATTINVER.](#)

Photos Seminar:

[Link Photos Seminar 25.02.2025](#)

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Information Disputes prevention - resolution: EUROPE to MOROCCO and SAUDI ARABIA, VENUES FOR THE 2030 AND 2034 FOOTBALL WORLD CUP



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Member of the Committee Board in the European Branch

In collaboration with Steering Committee Iberians
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Nuno Pereira André FCIARB; José Aitor Santana MCIARB;
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Fernando Messias MCIARB; Stefan Rating MCIARB;
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