



VIAC || Community
Ambassador
Network

THE FOURTH **VIAC CAN CONGRESS**

Cultivating Ideas Into Impact

13 February 2026
Vienna

Programme



PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

12 - 14 February 2026

Our yearly Congress plays a vital role in advancing the objectives of the VIAC Community Ambassador Network. By gathering professionals from the network including our impressive VIAC Ambassadors, the Congress showcases recent developments in the market, considers how these markets will develop in the future and serves as a platform for sharing ideas and networking.

THURSDAY

12

Exclusive Programme for VIAC Ambassadors
CLOSED EVENT

FRIDAY

13

VIAC CAN Congress - Fourth Edition
followed by a Gala Dinner at the Austrian
National Library
WELCOMING ALL PARTICIPANTS

SATURDAY

14

Juristenball / Ball of Legal Professionals
WELCOMING ALL PARTICIPANTS
Tickets can be purchased directly at: [juristenverband.at](https://www.juristenverband.at)



DETAILED PROGRAMME

Friday, 13 February 2026

10:00 - 10:30 Welcome coffee and registration

10:30 - 10:40 Welcome remarks

Franz Schwarz, VIAC President, Partner at WilmerHale, London

10:40 - 10:50 Insights from Advantage Austria

Michael Otter, VIAC Domestic Advisory Board Member,
Director General at ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA, Vienna

10:50 - 11:00 Opening remarks

Georg Kodek, VIAC Board Member,
President of the Supreme Court of Austria, Vienna

11:00 - 12:00 Keynote: The Arbitrator in The Age of AI

John Fellas, VIAC International Advisory Board Member,
Arbitrator, New York

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00 - 14:15 Panel I

**Cross-Border Enforcement Trends in CEE:
What Practitioners Need to Know**

Moderator:

Małgorzata Surdek-Janicka, Arbitrator, Warsaw

Speakers:

Ramūnas Audzevičius, Partner and Head of Dispute Resolution,
Motieka, Vilnius

Milena Djordjević, Assistant Professor at University of Belgrade
Faculty of Law, Belgrade

Utku Coşar, Arbitrator, Arbitration Chambers, New York and
Istanbul

14:15 – 14:45 TrialBrew - Coffee Break sponsored by TrialView

DETAILED PROGRAMME

Friday, 13 February 2026

14:45 - 16:00 Panel II

CANversations: VIAC's 20x20 Vision!

Panel brings together VIAC Ambassadors for a fast-paced exchange on the key issues shaping the future of arbitration. From AI and third-party funding to sanctions and the evolution of the CEE region, the panel will explore the trends redefining practice across jurisdictions.

Moderator:

Arush Khanna, VIAC Ambassador for India, Partner, Numen Law, New Delhi

Speakers:

Daisy Chen, VIAC Ambassador for China, Associate, Global Law Office, Shanghai

Fëllënza Limani, VIAC Ambassador for Kosovo, Senior Associate, Squire Patton Boggs, Prague

Eveli Lume, VIAC Ambassador for Estonia, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs, Berlin

Emilie Pardoën, VIAC Ambassador for the Netherlands, Advocaat, Avizor, Amsterdam

Rumen Cholakov, VIAC Ambassador for England, Barrister, 3 Verulam Buildings, London

16:00 - 16:15 Closing remarks

Niamh Leinwather, VIAC Secretary General, Vienna

19:00 - 22:00 Gala Dinner at the Austrian National Library

The Augustinian Reading Room, Josefsplatz 1, 1010 Vienna

Highlight: The Augustinian Reading Room at the Austrian National Library

The Augustinian Reading Room, the former library hall of the Augustinian monastery, offers a magnificent setting for an unforgettable evening. The baroque ambience of the monastic reading room features antique reading tables where guests will be served an exclusive dinner. The entire room is decorated with frescoes by Johann Bergl.

The Augustinian reading room is one of the most exclusive rooms in Vienna.





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