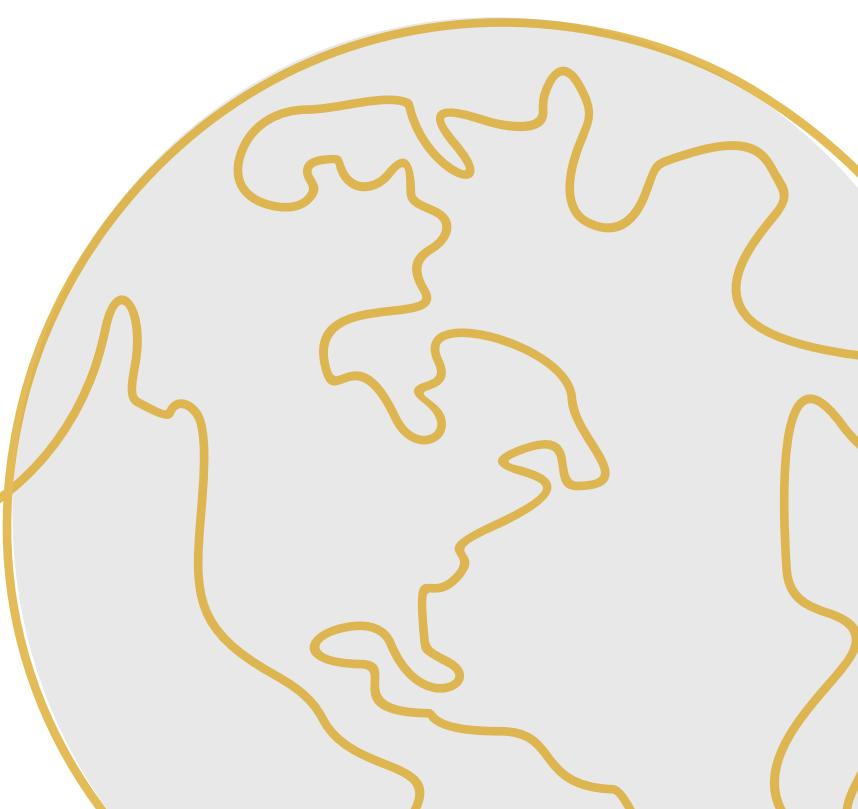


# THE FOURTH **VIAC CAN CONGRESS**

*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](http://juristenverband.at)

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# 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 Pardoen**, 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.*



**VIAC - Vienna International Arbitral Centre  
of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber**

Wiedner Hauptstrasse 63, 1045 Vienna

T +43 (0)5 90 900 4398

F +43 (0)5 90 900 216

E [office@viac.eu](mailto:office@viac.eu)  
[can@viac.eu](mailto:can@viac.eu)

[www.viac.eu](http://www.viac.eu)  
[www.viac-can.eu](http://www.viac-can.eu)