

Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends of VIAC,

It is my great pleasure to present the newly composed VIAC Board for the 2026-2028 term. This exceptional group of arbitration practitioners, academics, and thought leaders brings together a remarkable breadth of experience across jurisdictions, industries, and legal cultures. Their collective expertise reflects the evolving needs of the international arbitration community and reinforces VIAC's commitment to excellence, integrity, and innovation.

We are delighted to welcome an outstanding group of new Board members whose expertise and perspectives further enrich VIAC's diverse profile:

Georg Kodek (Chief Justice of the Austrian Supreme Court), **Brigitta Zöchling-Jud** (Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna) and **Ingeborg Edel** (partner at Binder Grösswang). They bring tremendous expertise and represent Austria's finest tradition of neutral, effective and fair dispute resolution.

We are also extremely pleased to welcome to the board **Vladimir Pavić** (Professor of Law at the University of Belgrade), **Crenguta Leaua** (partner at LDDP in Romania and professor at Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, and **Ana Stanić** (partner at E&A Law in London). They each bring exceptional experience in cross-border commercial work to VIAC and cement VIAC's partnership with stakeholders throughout the CEE and SEE regions.



They join **Diana Akikol**, **Claudia Annacker**, **Claudio Arturo**, **Veronika Korom**, **Paul Oberhammer**, **Alexander Petsche**, **Karl Pörnbacher**, **Dietmar Prager**, **Lucia Raimanova**, **August Reinisch**, **Stefan Riegler**, and **Irene Welser** (Board Members) as well as **Günther Horvath** and **Nikolaus Pitkowitz** (Honorary Presidents) – a diverse board with unrivalled expertise in commercial and investment arbitration. Armed with their vision, VIAC is uniquely positioned to deepen its international presence and to shape the future of international dispute resolution in the region and beyond.

In the coming months, we will introduce each Board member individually and share their insights on the opportunities ahead for VIAC and the wider ADR community. I invite you to follow these updates on **LinkedIn** and engage with us as we embark on this journey.



VIAC Board (2026 – 2028)

Thank you for your continued trust and collaboration. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming VIAC CAN Congress, which promises an engaging **programme**, including a panel on "Cross-Border Enforcement Trends in CEE" and our new rapid-format "CANversations: VIAC's 20×20 Vision". Registrations are open and available **here**, and I look forward to welcoming you there.

I look forward to our next meeting, whether in Vienna or elsewhere.

Best wishes,



Franz T. Schwarz

President, Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC)



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