

# VIAC CAN CONGRESS

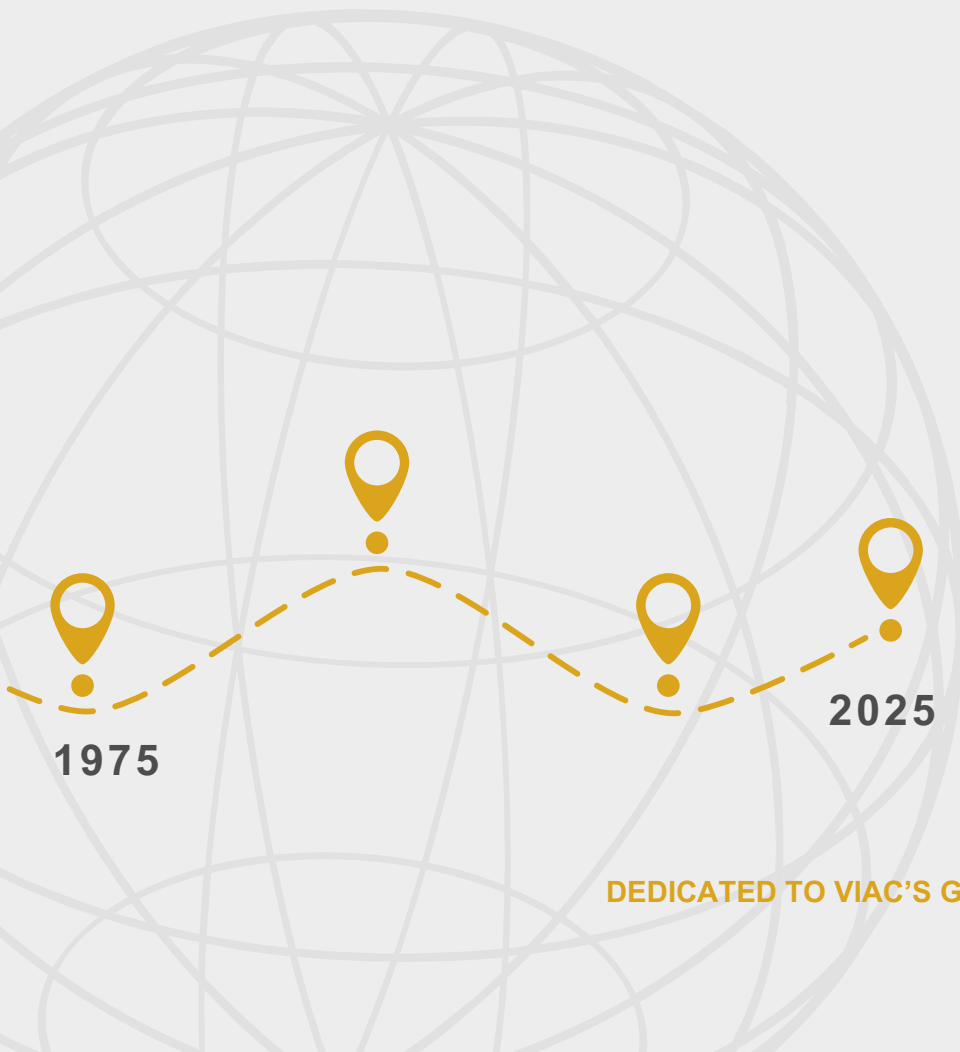
Third Edition

**SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ARBITRATION  
IN CEE / SEE FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS**

28 February 2025 - 1 March 2025

VIAC - Vienna International Arbitral Centre

Wiedner Hauptstrasse 63, 1040 Vienna, Austria



DEDICATED TO VIAC'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

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**50** YRS **VIAC** **||**  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION

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A tradition of progress.

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# Programme at a glance

27 February - 1 March 2025

Our annual Congress plays a pivotal role in advancing the objectives of the VIAC Community Ambassador Network. By bringing together professionals from across the network, including our distinguished VIAC Ambassadors, the event highlights recent developments in the market, explores future trends, and provides a dynamic platform for the exchange of ideas and networking. The focus of the upcoming Congress will be to celebrate VIAC's 50 year anniversary.

**THURSDAY**

**27**

Exclusive Programme for VIAC Ambassadors

Closed Event

**FRIDAY**

**28**

Wake up with VIAC CAN Breakfast Event

The Third VIAC CAN Congress

Gala Dinner at the Austrian National Library

Open to the public

**SATURDAY**

**1**

Juristenball / Ball of Legal Professionals

Open to the public

# Detailed Programme

- 08:30 - 09:30** **Wake up with VIAC CAN:**  
**The Future of Women in CEE: What Lies Ahead**
- 10:00 - 10:30** **Welcome coffee and registration**
- 10:30 - 10:35** **Opening remarks**  
**Niamh Leinwather**, VIAC Secretary General, Vienna
- 10:35 - 10:40** **Mariana Kühnel**, Deputy Secretary General of the Austrian  
Federal Economic Chamber, Vienna
- 10:40 - 10:50** **Advantage Austria and Austrian Trade Commissioners in CEE**  
**Michael Otter**, Chief Executive Officer at Advantage Austria, Vienna
- 10:50 - 11:00** **Welcome address**  
**Georg Kodek**, President of the Supreme Court of Austria, Vienna
- 11:00 - 12:00** **Keynote: International Arbitration and the Rule of Law: Between the  
Scylla of Politics and the Charybdis of Law**  
**Stavros Brekoulakis**, Professor at the National University of Singapore,  
Singapore
- 12:00 - 13:00** **Lunch Break, sponsored by:**  **Secretariat**
- 13:00 - 14:15** **Panel 1: Help, police! I mean ... arbitrator! Arbitrating in the Shadow  
of Crime**  
**Moderator:**  
**Ilija Mitrev Penushliski**,  
VIAC Ambassador for North Macedonia,  
Partner at Three Crowns, Paris  
**Speakers:**  
**Luminita Popa**,  
Founder and Managing Partner of Suciu Popa & Asociatii, Bucharest  
**Eva Kalnina**,  
Arbitrator at Arbitration Chambers, London  
**Kamalia Mehtiyeva**,  
VIAC Ambassador for Azerbaijan, Full Professor of Law, Paris  
**Sylvia Tnova**,  
Partner and Co-head of International Arbitration and ISDS at  
Pinsent Masons, London
- 14:15 – 14:45** **Coffee break, sponsored by:**  **Dimitrijević  
& Partners**

## Friday, 28 February 2025

**14:45 - 16:00 Panel 2: From Likes to Legal Fights: Social Media's Role in International Arbitration**

**Moderator:**

**Nata Ghibradze,**  
VIAC Ambassador for Georgia,  
Counsel at Hogan Lovells, Munich

**Speakers:**

**Wojciech Sadowski,**  
Partner at Queritius, Warsaw

**Crenguta Leaua,**  
Director of the Swiss Institute for Alternative Thinking, Lugano

**Paulius Docka,**  
Partner at QND LEGAL, Vilnius

**Markiyan Malskyy,**  
Partner at Kochanski & Partners, Warsaw

**16:00 - 16:40 Take the Lead in Arbitration – Insights on Leadership**  
**Barbara Riedenbauer,** Mindful Leadership coach & trainer,  
Vienna

**16:40 - 16:45 Closing remarks**  
**Nikolaus Pitkowitz,** VIAC President, Vienna

**19:30 - 22:00 Gala Dinner at the Austrian National Library**  
The Augustinian Reading Room, Josefsplatz 1, 1010 Vienna

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** || Community  
Ambassador  
Network

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