



Arbitration Newsletter – June 29, 2017

VIAC expands its jurisdiction

The Vienna International Arbitration Centre (VIAC) recently obtained the right to administer domestic cases.

The VIAC was established in 1975 as part of the Federal Economic Chamber. Historically, the handling of arbitration cases was divided among the VIAC and nine provincial arbitration centers, established for each of the nine Austrian states. The VIAC was permitted to accept only international cases (ie, cases which involved at least one international party or were of an international character). Domestic cases were handled by the nine provincial arbitration centers. As of June 20, 2017 a revision to the Act on the Federal Economic Chamber became effective, [\(1\)](#) which now also gives the VIAC the ability to administer purely domestic cases (Federal Law Gazette BGBl 73, 2017, June 19, 2017).

The new law has received a positive welcome in Austria and is another sign of the quality of the VIAC's work and the confidence in its services.

The VIAC has already established a working group to implement the proposed changes into the Vienna Rules of Arbitration and Mediation in order to reflect this positive development.

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