Concise

International Arbitration Second Edition

EDITOR Loukas A. Mistelis



Concise International Arbitration

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FOREWORD

This is a substantially updated and expanded second edition of Concise International Arbitration. The first edition was published five years ago in 2010. The book has proved to be a very useful tool for an important and evolving area of study and practice and has been welcomed by reviewers and readers.

International Arbitration is a rather idiosyncratic area of study and practice: in continental Europe, it started as an area of practice populated predominately by academics while in the common law world it was embraced mainly by practitioners who manifested academic aspirations and credibility. Moreover, it is an area of legal practice where the proliferation of academic and legal writing in the last thirty years is rather unparalleled both in terms of quantity and quality.

International arbitration is also an area of law with very few absolutes. Sources of substantive law have a different dynamic than they have in domestic litigation and arbitration: in addition to traditional positive law, soft (transnational) rules of law have firmly established themselves as applicable norms for arbitral decision-making. Arbitral procedural rules are an anthology of international treaty rules, arbitration rules (soft law) and domestic rules, which are mainly enabling default rules for the organisation and conduct of proceedings and in rare occasions mandatory.

Domestic perceptions are often challenged and arbitration practitioners find themselves working in many different jurisdictions and with many different laws. As a result, (successful) international arbitration practitioners are cosmopolitan and internationalist in outlook and disposition: they have a good grounding in one legal system but are capable to, and even enthusiastic about, working in different systems. However, it is not always easy to have access to foreign arbitration laws or to the 'legal system' of the different arbitration institutions.

Although the market for information on international arbitration is growing increasingly competitive, until now there has been a lack of a singular, short, direct guide of manageable size that focuses on answering the essential questions that inevitably arise when practitioners work in an array of jurisdictions, under differing rules and different conventions.

Concise International Arbitration is an article-by-article commentary that offers the reader a swift understanding of all provisions of the leading arbitration instruments. It is the first commentary of this type and it is part of Kluwer Law International's 'Concise' series. A concise commentary is particularly aimed at busy practitioners who require a succinct but authoritative commentary on the most often used instruments. In this fully revised second edition of the book, leading practitioners offer a systematic and accessible commentary of the 1958 New York Convention on the Recognition

and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, the 1965 ICSID Convention on the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, the 2010 UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, the ICSID Rules, the 2012 ICC Arbitration Rules, the 2014 LCIA Arbitration Rules, the 2014 AAA-ICDR International Arbitration Rules, the 2015 CIETAC (China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission) Arbitration Rules, the 2010 SCC (Stockholm Chamber of Commerce) Arbitration Institute Rules, the 2013 SIAC (Singapore International Arbitration) Rules the 1985/2006 UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, the Chinese Arbitration Law 1994, the English Arbitration Act 1996, the French Code of Civil Procedure 2011 and the 1989 Swiss Private International Law Act. The law is stated as at 31 March 2015.

This is a collective project and many thanks are due. First, I wish to express my thanks to all contributors who worked on their parts with enthusiasm and self-discipline. I found all contributions to be insightful, concise and authoritative. Second, I would like to thank the editorial team, Gloria Maria Alvarez, my assistant editor at the School of International Arbitration and Steve Lambley who worked on the editing and the typesetting. Finally, my sincere thanks are due to Gwen de Vries, for the idea of this book, and Eleanor Taylor and Vincent Verschoor for the seamless co-ordination of the project at Kluwer Law International.

London, 31 March 2015 LM

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	V
About the Authors	ix
Part I. Conventions	
Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention), 1958	1
Convention of the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States (Washington/ICSID Convention), 1965	37
Part II. Rules	
United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Arbitration Rules, 2010	179
International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) Rules of Procedure for Arbitration Proceedings (Arbitration Rules), 2006	271
International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Rules of Arbitration, 2012	347
London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) Arbitration Rules, 2014	469
American Arbitration Association (AAA) International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) International Arbitration Rules, 2014	563
China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) Arbitration Rules, 2015	617
Arbitration Rules of the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce	709
Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) Arbitration Rules, 2013	763

Table of Contents

Part III. Laws

United Nations Commission On International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law On International Commercial Arbitration,	025
985/2006	835
Arbitration Law of the People's Republic of China, 1994	911
English Arbitration Act 1996 (Chapter 23), 1996 – Arbitration Law in England, Wales and Northern Ireland	977
French Code of Civil Procedure (Book IV: Arbitration), 2011	1133
Swiss Private International Law Act (Chapter 12: International Arbitration), 1989	1189
List of References	1257
Index	1377

CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN ARBITRAL AWARDS (NEW YORK CONVENTION), 1958*

(Done in New York, 10 June 1958)

[Introductory remarks]

- 1. General. The New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards is arguably the most successful instrument, not only in the area of private dispute resolution, but also in the area of private and commercial law in general. It has 154 Member States, the more recent additions being Bhutan, Burundi and Guyana in 2014 and the Democratic Republic of Congo and the State of Palestine in 2015. In addition in 2014 the United Kingdom extended the territorial application of the Convention to the British Virgin Islands. In this respect, the Convention brings together countries with very different legal cultures and levels of economic development heralding a true product of early globalisation and projecting international arbitration as one of the few, and oldest, areas of global legal practice. Although the Convention, adopted by diplomatic conference on 10 June 1958. was prepared by the United Nations prior to the establishment of UNCI-TRAL - the specialist United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, which started its operation in 1966 - promotion of the Convention is an integral part of UNCITRAL's work. The Convention is widely recognised as the foundation of international commercial arbitration, imposing on courts of Contracting States a public international law obligation to give effect to an agreement to arbitrate when seized of an action in a matter covered by an arbitration agreement and also to recognise and enforce awards made in other States, subject to specific limited exceptions. Consequently, the Convention deals with the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards, the recognition and enforcement of arbitration agreements and creates a uniform legal regime of the grounds on which enforcement of an award may be resisted. The three areas that the Convention does not cover or harmonise are left to domestic legislation and one can only hope that these systems will gradually converge. These areas are: (a) public policy, (b) what matters are capable of settlement by arbitration (arbitrability) and (c) procedure relating to recognition and enforcement of awards.
- 2. History and status. In 1953, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) suggested a new treaty to modernise international commercial arbitration and the regime created by the Geneva Protocol of 1923 and the Geneva

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