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OF UNCITRAL
ARBITRATION

THOMAS H. WEBSTER

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Second Edition

Commentary, Precedents and Materials

Thomas H. Webster



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DEDICATION

To Birgit and our sons
Kevin, Andreas and Anthony

PREFACE

The adoption of the revised UNCITRAL Rules in 2010 (Rules) was a major event not only with respect to UNCITRAL Arbitration, but with respect to arbitration in general. Since the first edition of this Handbook was published in 2010, there have been a number of major developments that led to this second edition. As regards the UNCITRAL Rules themselves, they were amended in 2013 with the addition of Article 1(4) in 2013 to provide for the UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency in Treaty-based Investor-State Arbitration that were introduced effective April 1, 2014. Therefore, the general rules for investor state arbitration are changing and it is important to discuss the Rules on Transparency. As discussed in Part II of the Handbook, the Rules on Transparency deal with third party submissions, non-disputing party submissions and access to hearings as well as access to documents. The probable effect of the Rules on Transparency is reflected in the prior practice under NAFTA in particular which is discussed in Part II.

In addition, as was highlighted in the first edition, UNCITRAL arbitration rules are generally subject to the arbitration law of the place of arbitration. UNCITRAL has also played a very active role in this respect with the development of the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Arbitration as amended in 2006 (the Model Law). The commentary reflects the principles in the Model Law, as well as the principles in the arbitration laws applicable in a number of major places of arbitration (France, Switzerland, England and the United States). A key element of this Handbook is analysing how Tribunals seek to meet these requirements and how the state courts interpret legal requirements at the place of arbitration or the place of enforcement with respect to arbitration in general. As with the prior edition, this second edition focuses on the law applicable in the places where most international arbitrations take place: France, Switzerland, England, the United States and the UNCITRAL Model law countries. The latter category is expanding and becoming more important. The Handbook reflects and provides an English translation of the new French arbitration law. It discusses issues including how the state courts view Appointing Authority decisions on challenges and on the obligations not dealt with in the Rules, such as the collegiality amongst arbitrators. The Handbook also examines issues such as non-signatories and the differing treatment of the same Award in *Dallah Real Estate* in the UK Supreme Court¹ and the Paris Court of Appeal.² Another issue is whether it is for the Tribunal or the state court to interpret the scope of the arbitration clause and the US Supreme Court case of *Oxford Health Plans v Sutter*, and the more recent *BG Group v Argentina* case³ and, for England, once again *Dallah Real Estate*. The issue of enforcement of annulled awards has proceeded beyond the *Hilmarton* cases and is now the

¹ *Dallah Real Estate* [2010] UKSC 46.

² *Dallah Real Estate*, Paris Court of Appeal, February 7, 2011.

³ *BG Group PLC v Republic of Argentina* 572 U.S. ____ (2014).

subject of cases such as *Termorio*⁴ and *COMMISA*⁵ in the United States and *Yukos Capital* in the UK.⁶ In what may be a significant change of direction, the French Supreme Court has limited the scope of waivers of sovereign immunity in *NML v Argentina*.⁷ In addition, the French Supreme Court has referred the *Tecnimont* case to the Court of Appeal to examine the issue of waiver.⁸ The Swiss court also annulled an Award as being rendered after the parties' agreed deadline.⁹ In addition, access to court cases continues to improve. UNCITRAL now has a functioning website (<http://www.newyorkconvention1958.org/>) that provides updates on cases from a number of countries regarding the New York convention in those jurisdictions.

In addition to UNCITRAL's material relating to arbitration, various other entities, such as the International Bar Association (IBA) and the International Law Association (ILA) have produced guidelines or recommendations that continue to be discussed and used in international arbitration. The IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration as revised in 2010 have become a standard point of reference for arbitration procedure. The IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest continue to provide a point of reference and have been recently amended. The new IBA Guidelines on Party Representation in International Arbitration will also be used as a point of reference. The ILA recommendations seek to grapple with issues of parallel proceedings, res judicata and the ascertaining of applicable law and also provide a point of reference in those areas. The trend—despite the hesitation of some practitioners—is to seek to ensure that there are objective points of reference to decide issues in international arbitration rather than leaving matters to the discretion of the Tribunals.

The reception of the first edition of this Handbook was very gratifying. Without limiting my responsibility for any shortcomings in this second edition, it is appropriate to thank various persons. This edition, like the prior editions, reflects the value of discussion of the various legal issues by UNCITRAL and its Secretariat and Working Group II. In particular, I would like to thank Corinne Montineri for her insights on the issue of Transparency in Part II. I would also like to thank Jennifer Sharman-Koh, for her assistance with respect to this edition and to Andreas Webster who carried out research for the book in an effort to reflect the latest developments, particularly with respect to US law.

London, November 17, 2014

⁴ See (2007) ASA Bull Vol.25 No.3, p.643.

⁵ *COMMISA* 2013 WL 4517225 (SDNY August 27, 2013).

⁶ *Yukos Capital* [2012] EWCA 855.

⁷ *NML v Argentina* Cass 1^{ere} March 28, 2013 (No.395); see also the other two decisions of that date Nos 394 and 396.

⁸ Cass 1^{re} June 25, 2014 (11–26.529).

⁹ 4A_490/2013, January 28, 2014.

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| AAA-ICDR | The American Arbitration Association International Centre for Dispute Resolution |
| ABA | American Bar Association |
| Am Rev Int'l Arb | The American Review of International Arbitration |
| Arb Int | Arbitration International |
| ASA Bull | Swiss Arbitration Association Bulletin |
| Bus L Int'l | Business Law International |
| Ch. | Chapter |
| CA | Cour d'appel (French Court of Appeal) |
| Cass Civ 1re | Cour de cassation 1ère Chambre Civile (French Supreme Court) |
| Cass Civ 2eme | Cour de cassation 2ème Chambre Civile (French Supreme Court) |
| Code of Ethics for Arbitrators | Code of Ethics for Arbitrators in Commercial Disputes (2004) (adopted by the AAA and ABA in 2004) |
| Colum J Transnat'l L | Columbia Journal of Transnational Law |
| CPC | French Code of Civil Procedure |
| CRCICA | The Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration |
| D. | Dalloy |
| Disp Res J | Dispute Resolution Journal |
| England | England and Wales |
| JDI | Journal de droit international (Clunet) |
| EU | European Union |
| IntlALR | International Arbitration Law Review |
| Int'l Am L R | International American Law Review |
| Int'l Comp Law Quart | International and Comparative Law Quarterly |
| IBA | International Bar Association |
| IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest | IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in International Arbitration (2014) |
| IBA Guidelines on Party Representation | IBA Guidelines on Party Representation in International Arbitration (2013) |
| IBA Rules of Evidence | IBA Rules on Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration (2010) |
| ICC | International Chamber of Commerce |
| ICCA | International Council for Commercial Arbitration |
| ICC Court | ICC International Court of Arbitration |
| ICC ICArb Bull | ICC International Court of Arbitration Bulletin |
| ICC Rules | ICC Rules of Arbitration (2012) |
| ILA | International Law Association |
| ILM | International Legal Materials |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| J Chart Inst Arb | Journal of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators |
| J Int'l Arb | Journal of International Arbitration |
| Mealey's IAR | Mealey's International Arbitration Report |
| Model Law | UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (1985), with amendments as adopted in 2006 |
| New York Convention | United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (1958) |
| OLG | Oberlandesgericht (German Higher Regional Court) |
| PILA | Swiss Private International Law Act |
| PLI | Practicing Law Institute |
| Rev Arb | Revue de l'arbitrage |
| RDAI/IBLJ | Revue de droit des affaires internationales International Business Law Journal |
| Rev Crit DIP | Revue critique de Droit International Privé |
| Rules on Transparency | UNCITRAL Rules on Transparency |
| s. | Section |
| SIAC | Singapore International Arbitration Centre |
| TDM | Transnational Dispute Management |
| TGI | Tribunal de Grande Instance (French Court of First Instance) |
| Tribunal | Arbitral Tribunal |
| UNCITRAL Model Law | UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (1985) as amended in 2006 |
| UNCITRAL Notes | UNCITRAL Notes on Organising Arbitral Proceedings (1996) |
| UNCITRAL Rules | UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules (as revised in 2010, with new article 1, para.4, as adopted in 2013) |
| UNIDROIT Principles | UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts (2004) |
| USC | United States Code |
| YBCA | Yearbook of Commercial Arbitration |
| ZPO | Zivilprozeßordnung (German Code of Civil Procedure) |

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