

## Paris launches arbitration week



*Paris Arbitration Week is set to follow Paris Fashion Week*

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27 February 2017

Following its Fashion Week, Paris will this April play host to its first Arbitration Week, featuring events organised by each of its three major arbitration bodies.

“Paris Arbitration Week” started as the brainchild of **Yasmin Mohammad**, senior counsel at Vannin Capital, after she noticed she was spending so much time at similar events in Hong Kong, Dubai, Singapore and Korea. She said it seemed “odd” that the self-anointed “home of arbitration” had nothing similar.

A chat over cocktails with **Marie Danis**, a partner at August & Debouzy and board member of “Paris, the Home of International Arbitration” helped to get the idea moving.

“Marie is a great team player, so it was a no-brainer. After a couple of discussions, we invited **José Feris** – the current deputy secretary general of the ICC Court of International Arbitration to join our discussions,” Mohammad says.

**Clement Fouchard** (an associate at Linklaters and Member of the Bureau of the of the CFA) was the last team member added to the Organisation Committee to represent the CFA.

Together the four obtained buy-in from the three main Paris arbitration bodies: the ICC International Court of Arbitration, the Comité Français de l’Arbitrage and “Paris, the home of international arbitration”.

Mohammad credits **Elie Klieman**, partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and the head of “Paris, the home of international arbitration,” with spotting the potential of the idea and helping to make it into reality.

She also says that Peter Rosher, partner at Pinsent Masons and the secretary general of “Paris, the Home of International Arbitration” was “absolutely instrumental” in getting the PAW off the ground in “spearheading the project of creating a dedicated webpage”.

Paris Arbitration Week will take place on 24 to 28 April 2017, starting with an ICC conference on international arbitration in Europe, with speakers such as **Phillipe Pinsolle**, managing partner of the Paris office of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, and **Alexis Mourre**, the president of the ICC Court.

That event will be followed by a cocktail party hosted by the three host organisations at a venue yet to be determined.

The next day will see a full-day, members-only meeting for the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR in the prestigious *Hotel du Collectionneur*.

Wednesday 26 April offers institutional training for tribunal secretaries, organised by the ICC's hearing centre, and a members-only event for the ICC central and eastern-European arbitration group at the ICC headquarters.

Also on Wednesday, the Paris edition of the Global Pound Conference will take place at *La Maison du Barreau*. The event, initiated by the International Mediation Institute, will use a technology platform to enable all participants to vote on a set of four core questions through their smartphones. The data collected from these active discussions will be compiled in a final report at the end of 2017 and made publicly available.

At present, Thursday and Friday are available for others to organise events. Mohammad says she expects announcements soon.

Kleiman says it is only fitting that the "preferred seat of international arbitration" should host its own arbitration week. "It will be an occasion to celebrate this continuing trust and popularity. It is also a way to thank our friends from all over the world by hosting them in Paris", he says.

Mourre thinks the event will "reinforce Paris as a place for arbitration in an increasingly competitive global market".

President of the *Comité Français de l'Arbitrage*, **Laurent Jaeger** says that his organisation is proud to participate in an event that "testifies to the dynamism of the arbitration community of Paris".

Paris becomes the latest city to host its own arbitration week. The concept developed in Hong Kong and has spread to Dubai, New York, Sydney and Seoul.

Topics on the agenda for the ICC opener include the ICC's expedited rules, covered by GAR in November and set to take effect on 1 March, with the panel looking at how these could be used differently for small and large claims.

The week is a mix of free and ticket-only events. Full details are available [here](#).