Our international arbitration expertise in Paris

Key differentiators

Depth of experience

Our arbitration specialists have a particular focus on commercial, construction and investment-treaty arbitration.

Our team has substantial experience in successfully arguing extremely complex cases, often with hundreds of millions of dollars at stake, under all the key institutional rules – including those of the ICC, ICSID, LCIA, SCC, AAA, DIAC, HKIAC, SIAC and VIAC, as well as the UNCITRAL rules.

Assisting you at every stage of your transactions

Including:

- drafting and negotiating arbitration agreements;
- advising on the structuring of transactions and investments to ensure maximum protection for our clients' interests;
- representing clients in international arbitration under any legal system and anywhere in the world (including appearing as advocates at hearings);
- acting in arbitration-related court litigation; and
- enforcing arbitral awards around the world.

Sector expertise

Our team has a track record of handling significant, high-profile arbitrations in the natural resources and energy sectors, including gas price reviews and renewables, infrastructure and power, as well as arbitrations relating to constructions, banking and complex financial product, for both international investors and sovereign States alike.

Our team can also assist you on structuring or restructuring your investment.

Our team also regularly advise sovereign States in the negotiation or renegotiation of international treaties.

Alternative forms of dispute resolution

We have expertise in advising on alternative forms of dispute resolution, including negotiation, mediation, adjudication and expert determination, whether as standalone processes or as part of an escalation procedure, with arbitration as a fall-back. We are going to achieve successful outcomes for the customer, so that we are timely and cost-effectively resolved.

A standout team on the French market

The team brings together a variety of talented profiles, including lawyers qualified in several jurisdictions around the world, a number of whom sit as arbitrators and hold senior positions in leading arbitral institutions. This combination puts us right at the heart of the arbitral community and provides us with an in-depth understanding of the arbitral process. Our quality, thoroughness and innovation set us apart.

Cross-border capabilities

With dedicated arbitration teams in all the major arbitration hubs around the world, and substantial experience of all the key arbitration rules, we are truly a one-stop-shop for your needs. This enables us to run cross-border matters efficiently.

Unrivalled global reach

We work seamlessly with Allen & Overy's banking, capital markets, projects and corporate teams on specific projects, as international law experts. This combination, coupled with ur extensive global footprint, gives us unmatched insight into the markets around the world and means that we really understand your business and the risks it faces, wherever you operate.

Market recognition

We advise businesses and governments on numerous high-value international arbitrations across Europe, Africa and Asia. We are recognised by major legal guides such as Chambers and Legal 500, as one of the world's leading arbitration practices.

ALLEN & OVERY

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Our key international arbitration experience includes advising:

A leading energy group against a North African SOE in a major gas price review dispute under long-term LNG supply agreements which also involved advising on a related (but independent) pipe-gas supply agreement and assisting the clients in negotiating an amendment to the contracts regarding volumes and duration.

A major oil company located in the Persian gulf in two significant up-stream oil & gas arbitrations. The first one, a London seated ICC arbitration claim brought against our client in relation to a large oil development and production project in Iraq, involves interesting questions of contractual interpretation and the interaction of English and Iraqi laws. The second one, a Paris seated ICC arbitration claim, relates to our client's withdrawal from participating interest in an Yemeni oil and gas exploitation filed, in the context of deteriorating security situation in Yemen.

A major French company in relation to a dispute regarding our client's decommissioning obligations in connexion with the installations of an off-shore oil and gas field, exploited by our client and a Thai State company.

A major port operating company in Jordan in multiple proceedings relating to the enforcement of a multi-million arbitral award in France. We assisted the client in seeking and obtaining the recognition of the award and carrying out various enforcement measures (bank account and shares attachments etc) as well as representing our client in a claim in the Jordanian courts commenced by he other party to the ICC claim, in an attempt to dislodge the award. We faced the challenge of preparing a substantial and nuanced application in a very short period of time, complicated by the requirements of full and frank disclosure in ex parte proceedings. We also obtained the full dismissal by the French Commercial Court of the four grounds of challenges made by the counter-party in an attempt to invalidate the award.

An international oil and gas company, in relation to five ICC arbitration, seated in Singapore and several statutory adjudications,arising out of the onshore construction of an LNG Project in Australia. These matters are excellent examples of innovative staffing and collaboration across our network; the team spans our Perth, Sydney, Singapore, London, Dubai, Johannesburg, Paris and Hong Kong offices, with further assistance provided by A&O's PeerPoint flexible resourcing network.

A European financial institution in an investment treaty claim at ICSID against Croatia, relating to legislation passed by Croatia allowing borrowers to unilaterally convert Swiss Franc-denominated or -indexed loans into Euro loans at historic exchange rates which violates the terms of the Croatia-Austria bilateral investment treaty and has caused our client substantial losses. The Tribunal unanimously dismissed Croatia's objection on jurisdiction in one of the first first decisions rendered on jurisdiction under intra-EU BITs following the Achmea decision and the first under the Austria-Croatia BIT. This is an important victory for our client, and may have a bearing on the claims brought by other banks against Croatia.

Several different investor groups and **infrastructure funds** against the Kingdom of Spain in arbitration claims, brought under the Energy Charter Treaty, which arise out of retrospective changes made by Spain to the regulatory investment framework governing this sector. In all four of these cases, we have put together cross-jurisdictional teams, drawing on our market-leading ECT experience in Paris, Madrid, London and Dubai. We have secured a win for both Eiser and Antin, the first wins for investors in these cases against Spain.

United Arab Emirates in defending an investment treaty claim commenced against it at ICSID. This is the third known investor-state claim faced by the State, with Allen & Overy having successfully defended the State in the first ever ICSID claim it faced. We are also representing the UAE in another claim brought at ICSID under the UK-UAE BIT, raising issues of expropriation and denial of justice in relation to alleged investments in certain real-estate projects.

The State of Morocco in an ICSID dispute relating to an investment in Morocco's only oil refinery, alleging that the State has breached its obligations under the Sweden-Morocco bilateral investment treaty and customary international law.

"Particularly strong investment arbitration practice, acting for both investors and state entities, but also handles commercial disputes."

"Great experience in international arbitration."

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (Dispute resolution: International Arbitration)

"Marie Stoyanov combines an open, friendly approach with the highest level of professionalism. The associates have been unfailingly helpful and efficient."

"Marie Stoyanov is excellent in cross-examination."

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (Dispute resolution: International Arbitration)

"Marie Stoyanov of Allen & Overy LLP specialises in assisting investors with claims under the Energy Charter Treaty. She also handles investment arbitration on behalf of states. Sources enthuse: "She is very precise, convincing and has good advocacy skills."

Chambers Global 2022 – France (International Arbitration)

"Marie Stoyanov specialises in assisting investors with claims under the Energy Charter Treaty. She also handles investment arbitration on behalf of states. Clients say: "She is extremely well prepared, detailed and a really intelligent advocate," going on to say that she "knows how to present an argument and read the strategy, and she is very calm."

Chambers Global 2022 – France (International Arbitration)

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