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## ICC ARBITRATION UNCOVERED: KEY TRENDS, TOOLS AND TACTICS – REPORT FROM AN ARBITRATION CONFERENCE (BRATISLAVA, 8 JUNE 2023) / Pavel Lacko

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On 8 June 2023, an arbitration conference took place at the Law Faculty of the Comenius University Bratislava, entitled *ICC Arbitration Uncovered: Key trends, tools and tactics*.

The conference brought together esteemed speakers from various backgrounds and provided a comprehensive exploration of the distinct advantages of ICC arbitration. The event was organised by the ICC International Court of Arbitration and ICC Slovakia, and it proved to be an invaluable platform for knowledge sharing, engaging discussions, and networking opportunities.

The conference commenced with the opening remarks delivered by prominent figures in the field of arbitration. Tomáš Borec, a member of ICC Slovakia and the ICC International Court of Arbitration, along with Peter Mihók, Chairman of ICC Slovakia, set a positive tone for the conference. Ulrich Kopetzki, the Acting Director of Arbitration and ADR, Europe at the ICC Dispute Resolution Service, and Mária Patakyová, a professor at the Faculty of Law, Comenius University Bratislava, further enriched the opening session.

The first panel of the conference, titled *Exploring the Distinct Advantages of ICC Arbitration* proved to be highly informative. Ulrich Kopetzki offered his expert knowledge on the topic of advantages of ICC arbitration. Alina Leoveanu, Counsel at the ICC International Court of Arbitration shed light on the ICC's recent numbers and current

plans, providing attendees with a comprehensive overview of the organization's activities. Lukáš Paleček, Deputy Counsel at the ICC International Court of Arbitration, discussed recent changes to the rules, ensuring that participants were up to date with the latest developments. Finally, Małgorzata Surdek-Janicka, Vice-President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, highlighted the ICC Note to Parties and the relevant issues. The panel was skilfully moderated by Roman Prekop, partner at the law firm Barger Prekop and a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration.

The first panel was followed by an engaging Q&A session, allowing participants to seek clarification on the topics discussed. This interactive session facilitated valuable dialogue among the attendees, contributing to the atmosphere of the conference.

The second panel of the conference focused on the topic of *Summary Judgments/Awards*. Petr Polášek, a partner at White & Case, Washington, delivered a thoughtful presentation on this subject, offering valuable information into current practices. Maria Hauser-Morel, counsel at HANEFELD, Paris, brought attention to the role of emergency arbitrators and their interim measures in the arbitration proceedings. Cristina Alexe, a Partner at ACEADVISOR, Bucharest, emphasised the significance of mediation and expert determination as a mandatory prerequisite to arbitration. The panel was expertly moderated by Martin Magal, the managing partner of Allen & Overy, Bratislava.

The conference concluded with closing remarks by Miriam Galandová, a partner at PRK Partners, Bratislava. Her insightful summarisation provided a fitting end to the event, summarising key takeaways and leaving attendees inspired to further explore the field of arbitration.

In conclusion, the arbitration conference was a resounding success. It provided a platform for esteemed speakers to share their expertise, engage in fruitful discussions, and foster professional connections. The event was well-structured, covering a wide range of pertinent topics in the field of arbitration, and the moderators skilfully steered the discussions to maximise participant engagement.

A sincere appreciation to the organisers, speakers, and moderators for their invaluable contributions to this conference should be underlined. I am confident that the insights shared during the conference will have a lasting impact on the attendees and contribute to the advancement of arbitration practices in Slovakia.