



ANNUAL WILLEM C. VIS INTERNATIONAL
COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION MOOT

Vienna, March 6, 2020

Dear Vis Moot Community,

The situation involving the Covid-19 virus has developed in a way that has created multiple uncertainties and concerns. Although there is presently no prohibition on holding large scale events in Vienna, the authorities have however encouraged all event organisers to conduct a risk analysis. While we would normally say one of the Moot's greatest strengths is that it is an event which brings together thousands of people from all over the world - that is, in this case, what poses one of the greatest risks.

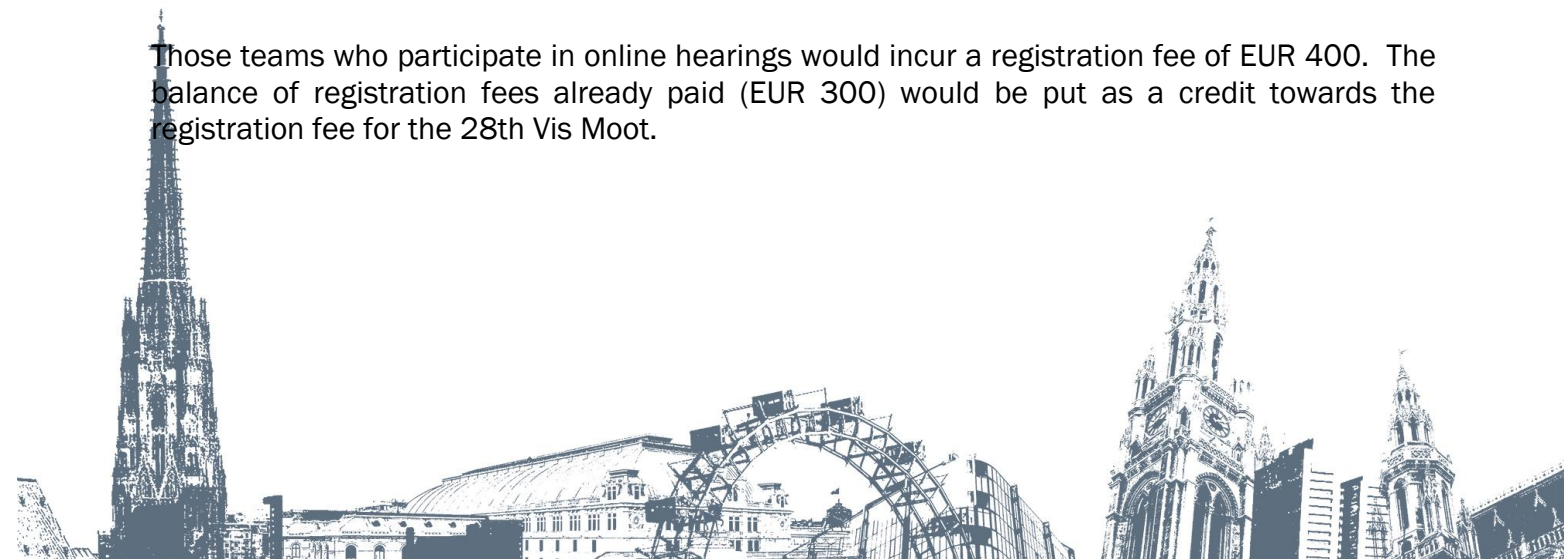
It is with considerable regret that we have decided it is necessary to cancel the Moot week and the oral hearings in Vienna that were to be held on 3-9 April 2020.

The range of measures that are being taken in different countries also create uncertainties around the practical viability of the Moot. Closing venues is a fairly typical means of "social distancing", and the locations at which the Moot takes place could be shut down from one day to the next. Numerous universities in a wide range of countries have advised students that they should not travel anywhere in the world. Similarly law firms and other businesses are also asking employees to restrict their travel. As a result a number of teams have already indicated that they can no longer participate, and the trend suggests that number would likely increase in the next week or two.

Following our letter last week, several members of the Moot Community reached out to us with contacts in the Online Dispute Resolution community, and other potential platform providers. Based on our initial conversations we have determined it would be technically feasible to run the oral hearings online. We are aware that this endeavour cannot substitute the quality and learning experience of oral hearings held in person, and there are significant logistical issues that would still need to be resolved. However, we are working our way through those logistical issues as quickly as possible with a view to enabling oral hearings to take place in the most optimal and currently feasible way. We anticipate that we will be sending out a further message regarding this option in the next few days.

To assist with that planning we ask that teams and arbitrators complete a short survey. The link for the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BV96858>
Please respond to this survey by 13 March 2020.

Those teams who participate in online hearings would incur a registration fee of EUR 400. The balance of registration fees already paid (EUR 300) would be put as a credit towards the registration fee for the 28th Vis Moot.



For those teams who choose not to participate in the online hearings, as previously advised we will credit EUR 500 of their registration fee for the 27th Vis Moot towards participation next year in the 28th Vis Moot. The remaining EUR 200 fee will cover administrative costs of the Moot already incurred in the writing part of the Moot, and enable the team to remain in the Memoranda competition. Teams will receive certificate of participation for the memoranda stages and honourable mentions.



Prof. Dr. Christopher Kee



Prof. Dr. Stefan Kröll



Mag. Patrizia Netal