



Vienna, March 6, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

The Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot is one of the world's largest experiential learning experiences for law students. Now in its 27th year, more than 2,400 law students, over 1,000 coaches, and an equal number of arbitrators from all over the world were set to come together in Vienna in the first week of April 2020. 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 unfortunately today as we must recognize, one of its greatest risks.

Having regard to the health and safety of all those who participate in the Vis Moot, we have found it necessary to cancel the Moot week and oral hearings that were to be held between 3-9 April 2020. Due to the recent developments concerning Covid-19 it would be irresponsible to gather thousands of people coming from so many different countries and run the risk to further spread Covid-19 into the world.

We are very conscious of the months of work that teams and their supporters have invested in preparing for this year's competition and it is with considerable regret that we are unable to provide the students with the important learning experience of oral hearings held in person. As this is not possible we are investigating an online alternative and will be communicating directly with our Vis Moot community about that possibility.

We recognise also the impact a decision of this kind has on our sponsors. We remain indebted for their support, and particularly this year to the highly appreciated cooperation with the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) whose arbitral rules we are using.

We extend our care and concern for all those impacted by the Covid-19 Virus and wish speedy recovery.

The Vis Moot Directors

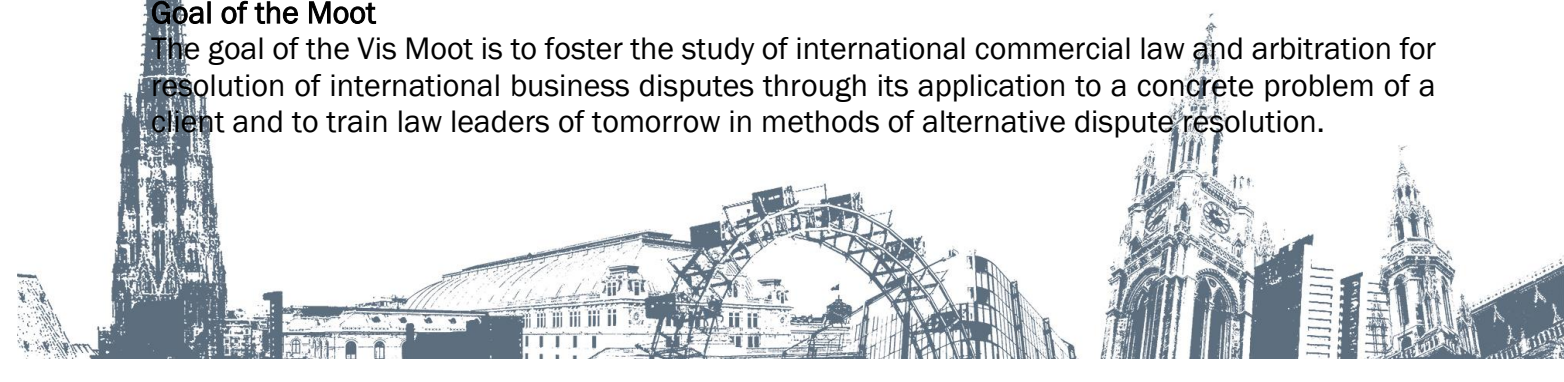
Prof Dr Christopher Kee, Prof Dr Stefan Kröll, Mag. Patrizia Netal

About the Moot

Created in 1993 by Professor Eric E Bergsten (Secretary of UNCITRAL 1985-1991), the Vis Moot has been an experience shared by approximately 30,000 law students over its 27 year history. The Moot problem is released the first Friday of October each year and teams commence their work. All teams come together in Vienna in the week before Easter to conduct the oral hearings.

Goal of the Moot

The goal of the Vis Moot is to foster the study of international commercial law and arbitration for resolution of international business disputes through its application to a concrete problem of a client and to train law leaders of tomorrow in methods of alternative dispute resolution.



Structure of the Moot

The business community's marked preference for resolving international commercial disputes by arbitration is the reason this method of dispute resolution was selected as the clinical tool to train law students through two crucial phases: the writing of memorandums for claimant and respondent and the hearing of oral argument based upon the memorandums – both settled by arbitral experts in the issues considered. The forensic and written exercises require determining questions of contract – flowing from a transaction relating to the sale or purchase of goods under the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods and other uniform international commercial law – in the context of an arbitration of a dispute under specified Arbitration Rules. In the pairings of teams for each general round of the forensic and written exercises, every effort is made to have civil law schools argue against common law schools – so each may learn from approaches taken by persons trained in another legal culture. Similarly, the teams of arbitrators judging each round are from both common law and civil law backgrounds.

Organization of the Moot

The Moot is organized by the Association for the Organization and Promotion of the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Verein zur Veranstaltung und Förderung des Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot).

The Moot has three Directors – Prof Dr Christopher Kee (Flinders University), Prof Dr Stefan Kröll (Bucerius Law School), and Mag. Patrizia Netal (Knoetzi). Institutional members of the Verein are Pace University, Queen Mary (University of London), Stockholm University, University of Vienna, Bucerius Law School, Austrian Arbitration Association, Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Moot Alumni Association, and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (Secretary of UNCITRAL is member ex officio).

Website

www.vismoot.org

Related Links

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willem_C._Vis_Moot