

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AND INVESTMENT ARBITRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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The New York Convention 1958 on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, Application of the Convention by national courts in Mediterranean Countries. Proposals for reform

1. I want to thank the European Institute of the Mediterranean and the other organizations for this very important conference and the kind invitation I received to be here.
2. Portugal is not geographically in the Mediterranean Coast, but through our History and Climate with strongly feel part of it.
3. The Peace and Prosperity of the World depends on all of us to be able to create a *Pax Mediterranean*, a word that needs to be invented as we don't find it in Google!
4. Arbitration and Mediation are peaceful solutions for disputes resolution. Through this seminar we are consolidating a Culture of Peace, with equality of weapons and rule of law, as it happens in arbitration processes.
5. I had the opportunity to read the speakers notes for this conference and they are very diverse, which appears to be rather stimulating. I have also some ideas about the controversy that arose in Dublin related to the ideas put together by Albert Van Den Berg for a New Convention on the International Enforcement of Arbitration Agreements and Awards. I think that analysing Uncitral Arbitration Rules together with NY Convention would be very stimulating.
6. You may expect therefore that I will now transform myself from a President Moderator into an immoderate speaker. Don't worry! I just wanted to say that it would a pleasure for me to exchange roles. But for you it is much better to hear from Albert Van Den Berg and Mohyedin Al-Kaïssi, and this is what will now happen.
7. As President-Moderator, my role is ... to moderate. Moderation is only needed to respect the time schedule, which will be necessary for you to have the opportunity of receiving the input of all the distinguished speakers.
8. Thank you very much!