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# Urgent COVID-19 message to DRS community

**News** (<https://iccwbo.org/media-wall/news-speeches/?type=news>) • Paris, 17/03/2020

**The Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and ICC International Centre for ADR have issued an urgent communication to users, arbitrators and other neutrals.**

This is an urgent communication to ICC dispute resolution users, arbitrators and other neutrals in pending and future ICC Arbitration and ADR proceedings.

Over the past two months and as the COVID-19 outbreak continues to unfold worldwide, the safety of our staff and business continuity have been – and remain – our top priorities.

In this regard, we wish to advise you of the following:

## **A. Current status**

1. All offices of the Secretariat of the ICC Court and the ICC ADR Centre are operational.
2. Staff members are healthy and working remotely via mobile posts. Special arrangements have been put in place and will likely remain in force for the immediate future.

## **B. General rule**

**1. We strongly advise that all your communications with the Secretariat of the ICC Court/ICC ADR Centre be conducted by email.**

2. The Secretariat of the ICC Court/ICC ADR Centre are equally observing the same rule for case management purposes and any other activity.

We also urge you to observe the following steps which we consider essential in maintaining operational stability:

## **C. New requests for arbitration/ADR**

5. Requests for arbitration (including pertinent exhibits) should be filed with the Secretariat by email **at this address** (<mailto:arb@iccwbo.org>). Further information and additional contact details are provided **here** (<http://email.iccwbo.org/c/6/?T=OTc4Njg0MzY%3AcDEtYjlwMDc3LTI1MDA5Mjg4NTk0YTRhM2Q4NDBjZWQ0NWI5NDA0MzAiw>).

6. Applications for emergency arbitrator (including pertinent exhibits) should be filed with the Secretariat by email **at this address** (<mailto:emergencyarbitrator@iccwbo.org>). Further information and additional contact details are provided **here** (<http://email.iccwbo.org/c/6/?T=OTc4Njg0MzY%3AcDEtYjlwMDc3LTI1MDA5Mjg4NTk0YTRhM2Q4NDBjZWQ0NWI5NDA0MzAiw>).

7. Requests in other ADR proceedings (including pertinent exhibits) should be filed with the ADR Centre by email **at this address** (<mailto:adr@iccwbo.org>). Further information and additional contact details are provided **here** (<http://email.iccwbo.org/c/6/?T=OTc4Njg0MzY%3AcDEtYjlwMDc3LTI1MDA5Mjg4NTk0YTRhM2Q4NDBjZWQ0NWI5NDA0MzAiw>).

## Pending proceedings

8. If you need to send any correspondence (including awards and ADR decisions) in pending proceedings by courier or post to us, it is important that you promptly inform your case management team ahead of dispatch.

9. We welcome your queries and comments with regard to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on hearings and other meetings. You may contact your case management team at any time.

## Other

Finally, please note that at the time of publication of this communication – 17 March 2020:

10. Hearings and other meetings scheduled to take place at the ICC Hearing Centre in Paris until 13 April 2020 have been postponed or cancelled. For information on future bookings, please contact the ICC Hearing Centre **at this address** (<mailto:infohearingcentre@iccwbo.org>).

11. All business travel by staff members has been suspended.

12. Meetings scheduled to take place at our offices worldwide are being conducted virtually.

Against the current exceptional background, we are committed to pursuing our work with the least impact possible. We appreciate your understanding of the reasons behind these arrangements and are grateful for your trust.

Sending you our best wishes for the times that lie ahead, knowing we can get through them together.

# ICC Court issues COVID-19 guidance note for arbitral proceedings

**News** (<https://iccwbo.org/media-wall/news-speeches/?type=news>) • Paris,  
09/04/2020

**The ICC International Court of Arbitration has released a Guidance Note outlining a range of measures to help mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on arbitral proceedings.**

The Guidance Note provides support to parties, counsel and arbitral tribunals in ICC Arbitrations on the challenges currently faced in ensuring fair, timely and efficient resolution of disputes. It was prepared by a working group comprising Vice-President of the ICC Court Marnix Leijten (Working Group Chair), ICC Court President Alexis Mourre and other Vice-Presidents, members of the ICC Governing Body for Dispute Resolution Services and the Secretariat of the ICC Court.

” Mr Mourre said: **“In these exceptional times, it is of great importance that, parties and arbitrators get together to revisit our established practices in order to ensure the continued efficiency and fairness of ICC Arbitration. I would like to thank our working party for preparing the detailed and balanced guidance that we are releasing today.”**

The Guidance Note highlights factors relevant in assessing ways to mitigate COVID-19- related delays in the context of the **ICC Arbitration Rules** (<https://iccwbo.org/dispute-resolution-services/arbitration/rules-of-arbitration/>), including guidance on the possibility to organise virtual hearings. Two annexes of the Note provide a checklist for a protocol on virtual hearings and suggested clauses for cyber-protocols and procedural orders dealing with their organisation.

” Secretary General of the Court Alexander G. Fessas said: **“ICC has been quick to respond to the global emergency that is the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our hope that the Guidance Note, released by the ICC Court today, will assist parties, counsel and arbitrators in tackling possible procedural and administrative disruptions in the context of efficient and fair arbitral proceedings.”**

**Read the Guidance Note** (<https://iccwbo.org/publication/icc-guidance-note-on-possible-measures-aimed-at-mitigating-the-effects-of-the-covid-19-pandemic/?dm=bypass>)

