

VIAC CAN Newsletter for the CEE region

NEWS IN THE FIELD OF ADR

Bulgaria

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Significant Amendments to Bulgarian Arbitration Act

In August 2025 the Bulgarian arbitration law was significantly amended and retitled from International Commercial Arbitration Act to Arbitration Act.

Some of the key amendments include:

- Mandatory registration of arbitral institutions with new Registry of Arbitrations with the Ministry of Justice. The registration is required for any institution to administer arbitrations seated in Bulgaria.
- Mandatory registration of each arbitration (institutional or ad hoc) with seat of arbitration in Bulgaria. The president of the tribunal or the sole arbitrator is obliged to submit key documents (written submissions of the parties, minutes of hearings, the award, etc.) to the Registry. The documents submitted to the Registry will be accessible by officials at the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice and Bulgarian state courts.
- Severe sanction for lack of proper registration – invalidity of the award.
- Mandatory serving of hard copies of the request for arbitration and hearing notifications, unless the respective party has agreed to serving by email.
- Contradiction to public order has been reinstated as a potential set aside ground.

The deadline for setting up the new Registry of Arbitrations by the Minister of Justice is until the end of 2025. Until the Registry becomes operational and registration is possible, no valid awards on pending arbitrations seated in Bulgaria can be issued.

For more information, please refer to this article in the Arbitration Bulgaria Blog: [Bulgaria's 2025 Arbitration Law Amendments: A Step Toward Transparency or a Threat to Arbitration Autonomy? – Arbitrationbulgaria.com](https://arbitrationbulgaria.com/bulgarias-2025-arbitration-law-amendments-a-step-toward-transparency-or-a-threat-to-arbitration-autonomy/)