

Arbitration News

MARCH 2025

What Spanish courts are saying

SPAIN

- The HCJ of Madrid, in its [Order of 20 March](#), refers a preliminary ruling to the CJEU in order to determine the scope of review that a national court must carry out in proceedings challenging the validity of an arbitral award on the grounds of infringement of public policy rules under European Union law.
- The HCJ of Castilla-La Mancha, in its [Judgment of 13 January](#), dismisses an action to set aside an award based on an alleged violation of the principles of equality and adversarial proceedings. The Court held that both the arbitrator's setting of a ten-day deadline for submissions, as well as the decision not to forward the opposing party's post-hearing brief to the claimant before filing their own, fall within the arbitrator's powers to organize the proceeding and do not result in a denial of justice.
- The Provincial Court of Barcelona, in its [Order of 18 December](#), partially upholds an appeal against a ruling which, upon accepting a plea of lack of jurisdiction due to an arbitration agreement, also proceeded to appoint an arbitrator. The Provincial Court overturns the latter decision, stating that the lower court lacked jurisdiction to make such an appointment, which, under Article 8.1 of the Spanish Arbitration Act (SAA), falls within the competence of the High Court of Justice.
- The HCJ of Galicia, in its [Judgement of 10 December](#), dismisses an application for judicial appointment of an arbitrator on the grounds that, as the arbitration concerns the challenge of corporate resolutions, the Preamble of the SAA establishes that “*submitting the challenge of corporate resolutions to arbitration requires that the arbitration be administered and the arbitrators appointed by an arbitral institution*”.

What is happening outside Spain

INTERNATIONAL

- The European Commission, in its [Decision of 24 March](#), concludes that an ICSID award ordering Spain to pay EUR 101 million to European investors, due to changes in the renewable energy regime, constitutes illegal State aid. Consequently, it instructs Spain not to proceed with the payment.

Some interesting publications and events

ACADEMIC WORLD

- The French Ministry of Justice, through a dedicated working group, presented on March 20 its [proposals for reforming French arbitration legislation](#), including the creation of a unified arbitration code.
- CIAM-CIAR and CAM Santiago announced, on 11 March 2025, the [signing of an alliance](#) that incorporates CAM Santiago into the CIAM-CIAR network of courts. The agreement includes the referral of cases under contracts signed from 1 July 2025, as well as international proceedings arising from prior agreements.
- The Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC) published its 2024 [statistics](#) on 3 March. Among other highlights, 204 new cases were reported, representing an increase of nearly 17% compared to 2023.

What we have been up to at Pérez-Llorca

PLL

- Rolando Seijas and Javier García Urbano (Litigation and Arbitration lawyers at Pérez Llorca) participated, on 3 March, in the [event commemorating](#) the 10th edition of the Madrid Vis Pre-Moot. In addition, Celia Cañete, Javier García Urbano and Javier Sánchez Villegas (Litigation and Arbitration lawyers at Pérez Llorca) were recognized for their contribution and dedication to the mooting culture in Spain.
- Celia Cañete (Litigation and Arbitration lawyer at Pérez-Llorca) participated as arbitrator, on 7 March, in the final round of the [ADERE Moot Academy](#) held at Carlos III University.
- Felipe Nazar (Litigation and Arbitration partner at Pérez Llorca) participated as speaker, on 17 March, in the conference [ESG sustainability standards and arbitration: How to address greenwashing, reputational risk and arbitration?](#) held as part of Panama's Arbitration & ADR Week.