

The long-awaited arbitration reform has been successfully launched in Latvia as of amendments to the Arbitration Act and Civil Procedure Act adopted on 6 June 2024 by the Parliament (Saeima), and there are all opportunities for it to proceed smoothly when introducing these modifications in both operations of the arbitration institutions and practice of resolving arbitration cases. The amendments to the laws comes into legal force starting from July 4, 2024.

What has changed?

- The Amendments are based on the UNCITRAL Model Law;
- The new legal framework prescribes the setting aside procedure of arbitral awards;
- A crucial novelty is a framework of judicial support to arbitration proceedings;
- Use of a wider range of evidence is made possible – including witness statements;
- Right to request securing of the claim or application of interim measures in all stages of the arbitration process;
- The mechanism for enforcement of arbitral awards has been revised and improved.

The said amendments to the laws comprise both the requirements set out in the judgment of the Constitutional Court and recommendations of FICIL and OECD aimed at introducing wider options for alternative dispute resolution to be used. In general, it creates a platform for businesses as the users of arbitration to agree on resolution of commercial disputes in arbitration in Latvia more often, reduces the risks of the arbitration process being used in bad faith, and provides an opportunity for a more efficient enforcement of awards.

The next even more serious step will be implementing these amendments to the law and convincing the business society on reliability of arbitration courts in Latvia.



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