

**VAN BAEEL & BELLIS**



**New Cooperation Agreement  
Among Benelux Arbitration  
Institutions for Promotion of  
Arbitration and ADR**

| 21 Oct 2022

On 8 September 2022, the Belgian Centre for Arbitration and Mediation (CEPANI), the Netherlands Arbitration Institute (NAI), the Dutch Arbitration Association (DAA), the Chamber of Commerce of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and the Luxembourg Arbitration Association (LAA) (together, the Institutions) concluded a cooperation agreement (the Agreement) establishing a Benelux Arbitration and ADR Group (the Group).

While the Agreement provides that the Institutions will retain their full independence and autonomy, it aims to promote and strengthen arbitration and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms jointly within and outside the Benelux area, as well as to boost their visibility on the international arbitration and ADR scene.

## THE AGREEMENT

The Agreement is structured around three topics:

- **Joint promotion of arbitration and ADR mechanisms.** The Agreement encourages the Institutions to cooperate in the advancement of arbitration and ADR as a means of resolving disputes arising out of domestic and international commercial transactions. In particular, the Agreement provides that the Institutions will use their best efforts to hold a joint colloquium on an arbitration or ADR-related topic every two years. In addition, while nothing should prevent the Institutions from organising or joining an event on their own, they will also consider organising joint events.
- **Cooperation.** The Agreement will require the Institutions to (i) exchange information and publications on arbitration and ADR mechanisms (including sending a copy of all books they publish to the other Institutions); (ii) facilitate lectures of mutual interest on arbitration and ADR mechanisms; (iii) recommend to each other suitable individuals to serve as arbitrators or neutral individuals in particular cases; (iv) exchange information regarding conferences and transcription services; (v) inform the other Institutions of their public events and invite them to these events; and (vi) promote mutual visits of their respective bodies.
- **Functioning.** The Group will have a Steering Committee, composed of delegates of the Institutions and presided over by a chair appointed for a two-year term. The Steering Committee will meet at least once a year, successively in each Benelux countries.

The Group plans to organise its first conference in Luxembourg on 20 April 2023. It also intends to “explore the possibility” of a uniform arbitration act for international arbitrations seated in the Benelux.

The Agreement will replace the Belgium-Netherlands Arbitration Protocol (Belgisch – Nederlands Arbitrage Protocol/Protocole d’arbitrage belgo-néerlandais) which was concluded in 1990 by the CEPANI and NAI.

The full Agreement is available [here](#)

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