Vilnius Court of Commercial Arbitration: 2025 statistical report

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This article reviews the 2025 arbitration statistics and changes at the Vilnius Court of Commercial Arbitration (VCCA) in comparison with previous years. The report provides summarized information on the number of cases administered by the VCCA, the origin of the parties, average dispute amounts, the language and seat of arbitration, the distribution of disputes by economic sectors, the constitution of the Arbitral Tribunal and challenges of arbitrators, the average duration and outcome of arbitration proceedings in 2025.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This year's report provides a statistical overview of arbitration at the Vilnius Court of Commercial Arbitration (VCCA)[1] for the year 2025 and recent trends in comparison with past year(s).

In this report, you will find information about proceedings administered by the VCCA such as the number of new cases, origin of the parties, average amounts in disputes, the language and place of arbitration, nature of the dispute by economic sectors, the constitution of Arbitral Tribunals and challenges of arbitrators, the outcome and the average duration of proceedings at the VCCA in 2025. Some new statistics reflect the amendments of the Rules of Arbitration of the VCCA that entered into force on 1 January 2023.

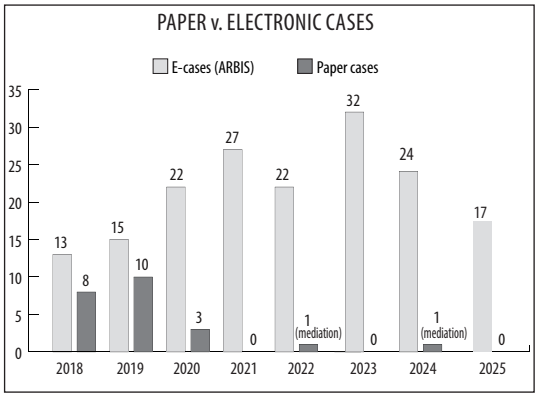
The VCCA continues its commitment to ensure that each case is handled with the requested efficiency, rapidity and in accordance with the specific needs of the parties.

1. RECEIVED CASES

Arbitration: 17 new arbitration cases were filed in the VCCA during 2025 as compared to 24 arbitration cases in 2024.

The VCCA's Information System, known as ARBIS, introduced in 2017, is dedicated to the management of arbitration cases online. Since 2021, a complete transition from paper-case format to the e-case, administered via ARBIS, has taken place – all new arbitration cases during 2021–2025 were filed via ARBIS. Although parties can also initiate arbitration proceedings in paper format, the use of the ARBIS System not only reduces the costs of the proceedings, but also further contributes to the preservation of resources and climate change mitigating initiatives.

Mediation: in 2025, no new mediation cases were received at the VCCA, in comparison with



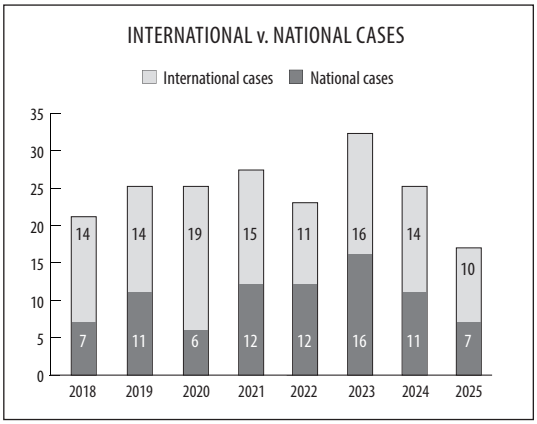
[1] Permanent arbitral institution Vilnius Court of Commercial Arbitration (in Lith. Nuolatinė arbitražo institucija „Vilniaus komercinio arbitražo teismas"), Vilnius, Lithuania, www.arbitrazas.lt

[2] Rules of Arbitration of the Vilnius Court of Commercial Arbitration in force from 1 January 2023.

[3] The Vilnius Court of Commercial Arbitration Information System (ARBIS), available at <www.arbis.lt> .

one request for mediation under the VCCA Mediation Rules (2014) in 2024, in which an adjournment was requested by the parties due to ongoing negotiations.

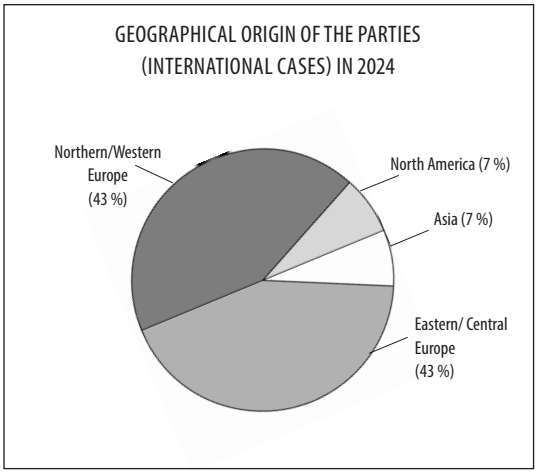
International cases: in 2025, more than half (59 %) of newly received cases at the VCCA were international (10 cases with at least one non-Lithuanian party) (56 % in 2024; 50 % in 2023); 41 % were local disputes (44 % in 2024; 50 % in 2023).

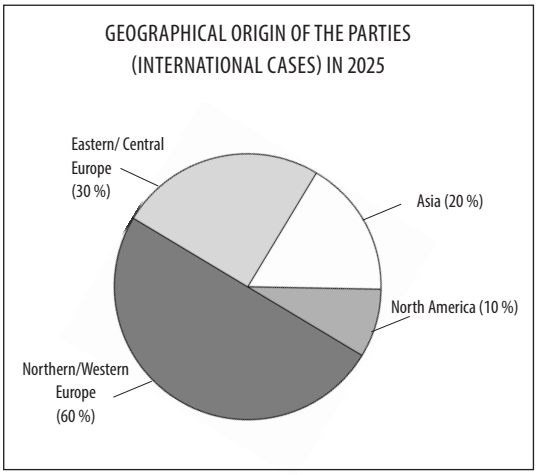


2. PARTIES

In 2025 and 2024, 1 case each year was brought between only international parties, as compared to 2 cases in 2023, no cases in 2022, 1 case in 2020 and 2 cases in 2018.

Geographical origin: 70 % of the international parties in 2025 came from Europe (86 % in 2024; 75 % in 2023), of which 60 % from Northern/Western Europe (43 % in 2024) and 10 % from





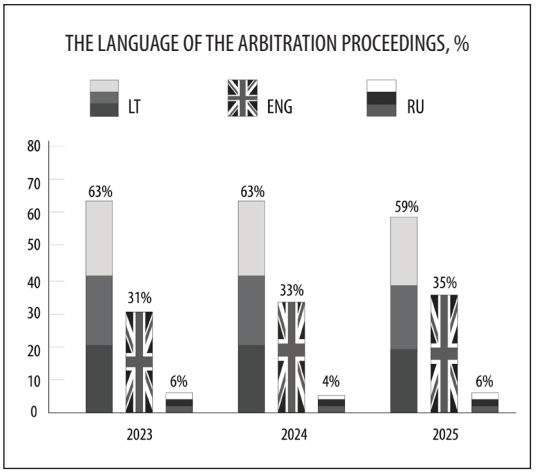
Eastern/Central Europe (43 % in 2024). The remaining cases with international parties came from Asia (20 %) and North America (10 %).

Multiparty Arbitration: 24 % of cases included more than two parties in 2025, compared to 21 % multilateral cases in 2024, 34 % in 2023 and 23 % in 2022. This comprised 2 cases that included three parties, 1 case with four parties and 1 case with seven parties. The multilateral cases fell within the range of 21–34 % in recent years (2022–2025), which also contributes to the complexity of disputes in the reporting period.

3. LANGUAGE

Official languages of the VCCA are Lithuanian, English and Russian.

In 2025, a similar percentage (59 %) of the cases as in 2024 (63 %) were conducted in Lithu-



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anian. 35 % of the cases in 2025 were conducted in English (33 % in 2024) and 6 % in Russian (4 % in 2024).

4. SEAT OF ARBITRATION

Vilnius as the seat of arbitration is a steady trend. In 2024–2025, 100 % of cases were initiated with Vilnius indicated as the seat of arbitration in the arbitration agreement, or Vilnius was established as the seat of arbitration by the Arbitral Tribunal.

5. APPLICABLE (SUBSTANTIVE) LAW

In most of the cases received in 2025 (88 %), the parties agreed in arbitration agreement on the application of Lithuanian law as substantive law to the dispute (2024 – 92 %; 2023 – 84 %). In remaining cases (12 %) the parties have determined the law of Sweden or application of international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), compared to 9 % of cases with choices of the law of England and Wales or CISG in 2024, and 10 % of cases in 2023 choosing either the law of Norway, England and Wales or CISG, and 6 % of cases having no express parties' agreement on applicable law in 2023.

Substantive Law	2023	2024	2025
Cases	100 %	100 %	100 %
Not specified in AA	6 %	-	-
Lithuania	84 %	92 %	88 %
England and Wales (UK)	3 %	4 %	-
Norway	3 %	-	-
CISG	3 %	4 %	6 %
Incoterms 2010	-	-	-
Sweden	-	-	6 %

6. NATURE OF THE DISPUTES

In 2025, the percentage of cases from industry increased – up to 23.5 % compared to 8.4 % in 2024, but decreased from general trade and distribution – 23.5 % (33.3 % in 2024). More visible other economic sectors in 2025:

11.8 % - construction and engineering (2024 – 4.2%);

11.8 % - telecommunications and IT (2024 - 8.3 %);

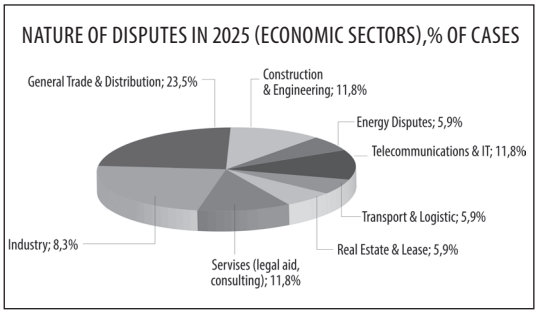
11.8 % - services (2024 – 8.3 %);

5.9 % - energy (2024 - 4.2 %);

5.9 % - real estate and lease (2024 - 4.2 %);

5.9 % - transport & logistics (2024 - 4.2 %).

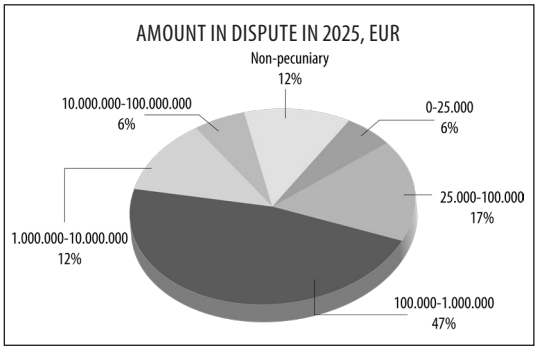
In 2025, no new cases in sports legal relations were received, compared to 12.5 % of cases in 2024, examined in accordance with Annex 4 of the VCCA Rules of Arbitration "Procedure for resolving disputes arising from legal relations in sports". The same applies to cases related to the industrial equipment sector (4.2 % in 2024) or finance and insurance (4.2 % in 2024).



7. CONSOLIDATION

The VCCA Rules of Arbitration, which came into force in 2023, introduced new Article 21[1] that provides for wider opportunities to consolidate arbitration cases, not only by consent of the parties. Accordingly, in 2023, three requests to consolidate cases were received, one of which was granted and two were rejected. There were no new consolidations in 2024 and 2025.

8. AMOUNT IN DISPUTE

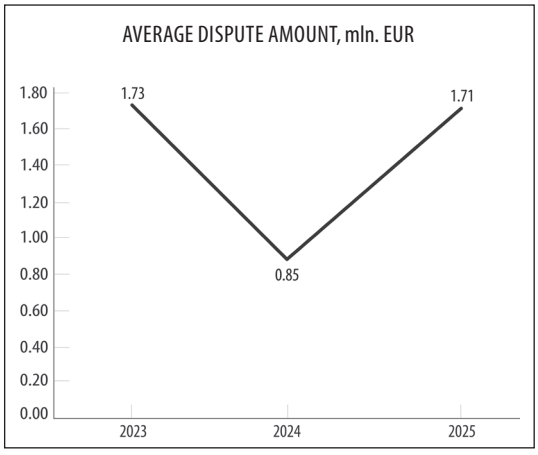


The percentage of the arbitration cases in 2025 by amount in dispute spread to:

Amount in dispute, EUR	2025	2024
< 25,000	6 %	25 %
25,000–100,000	17 %	25 %
100,000–1,000,000	47 %	42 %
1,000,000–10,000,000	12 %	8 %
10 mln.–100 mln.	6 %	-
> 100 mln.	-	-
Non-pecuniary	12 %	-

Almost half of new cases (47 %) received in 2025 were disputes of medium value – from EUR 100,000 to EUR 1 mln., followed by small disputes from EUR 25,000 to EUR 100,000. However, the share of disputes ranging from EUR 1 mln. to EUR 10 mln. increased to 12 % from 8 % in 2024, and disputes from EUR 10 mln. to EUR 100 mln. reached 6 % (0 % in 2024). Non-pecuniary disputes in 2025 represented 12 % of cases.

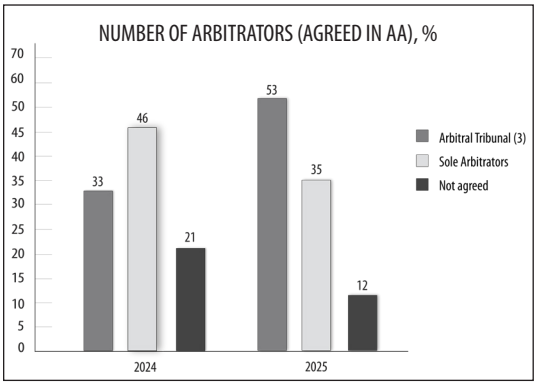
In cases received in 2025, the average amount in dispute amounted to EUR 1.71 mln. from EUR 0.85 mln. in 2024 (EUR 1.73 mln. in 2023).



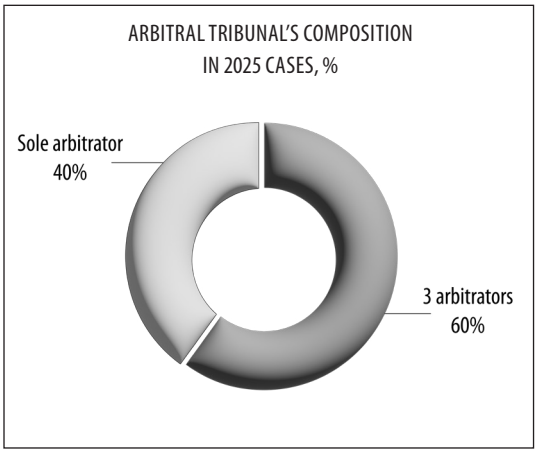
9. ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL

9.1. COMPOSITION

In 2025, the arbitration clauses contained express parties' agreement on the number of arbitrators: in 35 % of the cases, the Arbitral Tribunal was composed of a sole arbitrator (46 % in 2024), but more often – in 53 % of the cases – the parties chose an Arbitral Tribunal composed of three arbitrators (33 % in 2024). The remaining 12 % of cases had no express parties' agreement as to the number of arbitrators (21 % in 2024). Ultimately, in 60 % of cases received in 2025, the Arbitral Tribunal was composed of three arbitrators, compared to 35 % in 2024, and 35 % of cases were decided by a sole arbitrator, compared to 65 % in 2024.



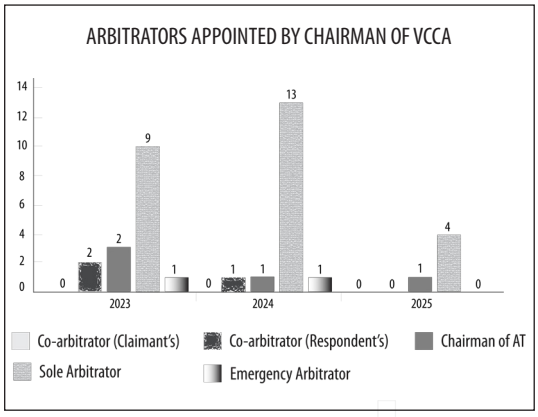
Thus, when specifying the number of arbitrators in their arbitration clauses, the parties prioritized a Tribunal composed of three arbitrators, unlike the trend in 2024 and 2023 of choosing a sole arbitrator. Noteworthy, in 2025, there were fewer cases (12 percent) compared to the previous year where the number of arbitrators was not specified in the clause, thus showing more active engagement by the parties



to decide the number of arbitrators before the dispute has arisen. On the other hand, the more frequent formation of the Arbitral Tribunal with three arbitrators may be associated with higher dispute values in 2025.

9.2. APPOINTMENTS

Under the Rules of Arbitration of the VCCA (Article 17), the VCCA has the right to appoint an arbitrator in certain circumstances, for instance, when a party or parties or the arbitrators fail to appoint an arbitrator, or when an emergency arbitrator has to be appointed (Article 2 of Annex No. 1 of the Rules of Arbitration of the VCCA). The number of appointments by the VCCA in 2025 was 5, in comparison to 11 appointments in 2024, 14 in 2023 and 14 in 2022. In 2025, the appointments were distributed as follows: 4 sole arbitrators were appointed (9 in 2024, 9 in 2023, 8 in 2022), no arbitrators were appointed from the claimant's side (1 in 2022, none in 2023–2025) or from the respondent's side (1 in 2024, 2 in 2023, 2 in 2022), but 1 presiding arbitrator of the Arbitral Tribunal was appointed (0 in 2024, 2 in 2023, 2 in 2022), and no emergency arbitrators were appointed in 2025 (1 each in 2023 and 2024).

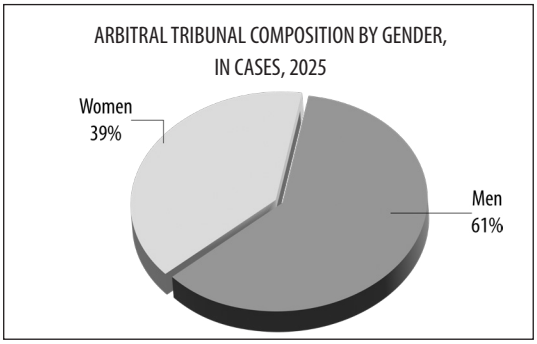


One foreign arbitrator was appointed by the VCCA in cases received in 2025, compared to 1 such appointment in 2023 and 3 in 2021. One appointment of a foreign arbitrator was made by the parties in 2025 as well, compared to 2 foreign arbitrator appointments by the parties and arbitrators in 2023 and 3 in 2022.

9.3. WOMEN IN ARBITRATION

In 2025, 39 % of arbitrators appointed were women, as compared to 53 % in 2024, 45 % in 2023 and 36 % in 2022. Out of all appointments made by the VCCA, 40 % were women appointed as arbitrators in 2025, compared to 55 % in 2024, 38 % in 2023 and 57 % in 2022.

Arbitrators by gender	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Women	23	16	14	23	18	13
Out of them appointed by VCCA	11	7	8	5	6	2
Men	15	32	25	28	16	20



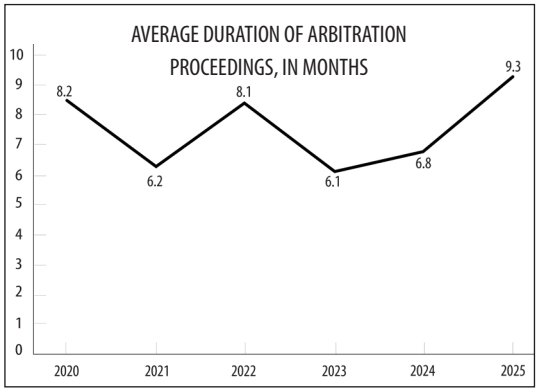
9.4. CHALLENGES AND REPLACEMENTS OF ARBITRATORS

In 2025, 3 challenges to arbitrators and 2 objections to the appointment of a party-nominated arbitrator were received, compared to 2 objections/requests for challenge of arbitrators in 2023, 1 request in 2022 and no challenges received in 2024. In 2025, two challenges were rejected, one challenge resulted in a resignation, one objection was rejected and one resulted in a new appointment by the party.

[4] Ibidem.

10. AVERAGE DURATION OF ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS

In 2025, 13 cases were finished. The arbitration procedure administered under the VCCA Rules of Arbitration lasted on average **9.3 months** (9 cases – ~6.4 months, 4 cases – ~13.1 months), compared to an average of 6.8 months in 2024, 6.1 months in 2023 and 8.1 months in 2022. It took on average 7.45 months from initiation of the case until rendering a final arbitral award during 2020–2025.



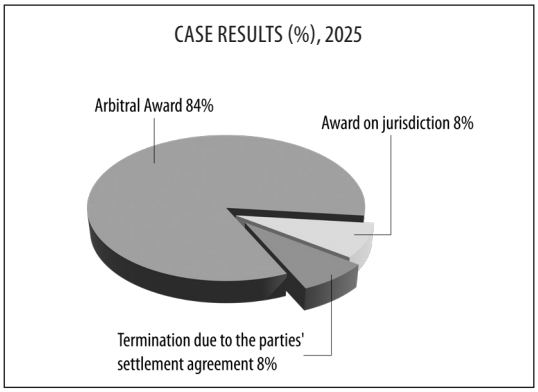
From the initiation of the case to the constitution of the Arbitral Tribunal and transmission of the case to the arbitrators, it took on average 2.6 months (2.2 months in 2024). This period varies depending on the duration and success of service of the notice of arbitration to the respondent(s), delays in payment of the set arbitration fees by the party(ies), as well as challenges raised to the arbitrators nominated by the parties, etc.

Under the Rules of Arbitration of the VCCA (Article 22 (1)), the case file shall be transmitted to the Arbitral Tribunal upon constitution of the Arbitral Tribunal and the payment by the parties of the determined arbitration fees. Article 42 (1) provides for a time limit for the resolution of the dispute by rendering an arbitral award within six months following the transmission of the case file to the Arbitral Tribunal. The average duration from transmission of the case file to the Arbitral Tribunal until the end of the case was 6.7 months in 2025 (5.4 months in 2024).

In view of the complexity of the case and also in the event of international commercial arbitration, the procedural time limits may be extended pursuant to Article 8 of the said Rules. In practice, the six-month time limit is extended due to the fact that, with the parties' consent, Arbitral Tribunals establish procedural timetables exceeding – and thus extending – the six-month deadline provided in the Arbitration Rules of the VCCA.

Out of 13 cases finished in 2025, 11 cases (84 %) ended by arbitral award (70 % in 2023 and 2024; 77 % in 2022), no cases were finished by withdrawal of claim by the party (3 % in 2024; 20 % in 2023; 3 % in 2022), 1 case (8 %) was terminated due to settlement by the parties (12 % in 2023 and 2024; 10 % in 2022), no cases were left unconsidered due to non-payment of the arbitration fees (9 % in 2024; 5 % in 2023; 7 % in 2022), none were dismissed due to other reasons (3 % in 2024; none in 2023), and none were finished with an arbitral award upholding the settlement (3 % in 2024 and 1 case in 2022).

In 2025, bifurcation took place in one case on jurisdiction, which denied the Arbitral Tribunal's jurisdiction, unlike one case in 2024 where a partial arbitral award upholding the Arbitral Tribunal's jurisdiction was subsequently rendered.



CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion some trends and observations may be underlined in 2025:

- international cases reach almost 3/5 of all caseload;

- dominant presence of the parties' originating from Europe in international cases (70 %);
- increased diversity of disputes referred to arbitration from different sectors of the economy;
- multiparty arbitrations formed a fifth of received cases;
- Vilnius, Lithuania remained preferred seat of arbitration;
- Lithuanian law as applicable to the merits prevails, however some cases are decided on other - European countries - laws or CISG;
- prevalent e-case form for arbitration;
- the average dispute amount increased to EUR 1,71 mln.;
- Tribunal composed of three arbitrators has been chosen by the parties in arbitration agreements more often;
- more than 1/3 of the arbitration cases were conducted in English;
- stable gender representation in composition of the Arbitral Tribunals – the significant part of women arbitrators appointed in 2025 (39 %);
- continuous balancing role of the VCCA in representation of the gender throughout constitution of the Arbitral Tribunals;
- average duration of the arbitration proceedings was 9.3 months despite deviations in some more complex cases.

It can be repeated with certainty that the VCCA Information System (ARBIS) introduced in 2017 and continuously supported and improved thereafter is appreciated by users and has transformed the management of arbitration cases at the VCCA.

Bearing in mind the VCCA's experience of more than 20 years in Lithuania and the Baltics, this report demonstrates the continuous work and stability of the VCCA as a credible and solid arbitral institution both nationally and internationally.