

The Russian and CIS Arbitration Network is a new initiative, which brings together arbitration practitioners, scholars and business people with an interest in Russian and CIS arbitration, aiming to facilitate exchange of knowledge and experience and encourage further development of international arbitration in relation to the region.

In doing so, the Network places a great emphasis on broad international cooperation by welcoming members from a number of jurisdictions, including the UK, Russia, France, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland. Through its activities, the Network seeks to complement the work already undertaken in the region by other professional associations.

The Network aims to organise a mix of educational and social events. Plans are under way to organise and co-host events, such as seminars and round tables, focusing specifically on aspects of Russian and CIS arbitration. On a less formal note, the Network already hosts regular informal dinners in London for its members, and is currently planning similar networking events in Frankfurt, Moscow and Paris.

In addition, the Network intends to produce regular publications, such as quarterly updates (for example, as a journal supplement) profiling various jurisdictions and discussing current issues. Bearing in mind the geographical spread of its membership, the Network is also considering other, innovative ways to encourage discussion and exchange, including interactive online webinars.

Membership of the Network is open to all with a professional interest in Russian and CIS arbitration. For membership enquiries, please contact the Network's Secretary Christina Schuetz of Clifford Chance (Christina.Schuetz@CliffordChance.com) or join the Network's group on LinkedIn website.

The official launch of the Network will be hosted by the Law Society of England and Wales at 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL on 21 July 2011, 6.30pm. The Launch Party is generously supported by the Network's corporate members: Clifford Chance, DLA Piper, Herbert Smith, Setterwalls, Fountain Court Chambers and Osborne Clarke.

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