



The future's bright, the future's Orange for CCIAG

Clemmie Spalton • Monday, 10 December 2012 (17 hours ago)



Isabelle Hautot, general counsel at Orange Group, is to become the next chair of CCIAG

The Corporate Counsel International Arbitration Group has elected a new president, Isabelle Hautot, general counsel for Orange Group.



Jean-André Diaz, in-house counsel at Total

Hautot, who was elected by the group's steering committee, will replace the group's current chair, **Jean-André Diaz**, in-house counsel at Total, early next year.

The announcement was made at the group's recent annual meeting at Total's headquarters in Paris.

Hautot, who will serve a two year term as president, has 33 years of experience, acting as counsel and arbitrator in ad hoc and institutional cases. In the past, she has also taught international arbitration and international commercial law at Paris's Institute of Political Studies, the University of Paris V René-Descartes, the French Bar School and Bologna University.

Speaking at CCIAG's annual meeting on 15 November, Hautot emphasised the increasing importance of the role of in-house counsel as disputes become more complex.

"Too often, companies ignore the fact that in-house lawyers should be those who shape the problems, rather than merely answer questions," she said. "They also forget that tailoring dispute resolution is a crucial part of company strategy, and that in-house lawyers should be involved at a time when all options for a proper decision are still open."

"This plays a significant part in the difficulties presently encountered in the arbitration process and therefore the CCIAG will focus on raising awareness of these points over the next two years."

More recently, Diaz says his role has been to promote the group among the growing number of organisations and institutions dedicated to international arbitration.

He says another of the group's aims is to reach beyond European and Western boundaries and to expand its scope to cover mediation as well as other forms of ADR

To these ends, proposals have been made to facilitate the exchange of information by CCIAG members through social networks and to reach out to the Middle East, Asia, the US and Latin America, he says.

Consideration is also being given to the creation of an arbitrators' directory, based on objective criteria regarding the performance of individual arbitrators. The directory would focus on the timetable set for an arbitration, delays that occurred during the process, and the time taken to deliver the award after the final hearing, according to **Andrew Clarke**, general counsel at Exxon Mobil and

former chair of CCIAG.

CCIAG was founded in 2006 in Paris by **Jean-Claude Najjar**, general counsel at GE, and the CCIAG's first president, to promote the interests of users of arbitration and to serve as a think tank to respond to the frequently heard criticisms of the arbitral process.

The group is comprised of nearly 140 corporate counsel from more than 90 multinational companies spread across 15 different countries, with the majority based in France, the US and the UK.

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