

MANIFESTO OF SIR CHRISTOPHER VAJDA KC FOR ELECTION TO THE BRANCH COMMITTEE OF CIARB LONDON BRANCH

I was the last UK judge of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) between 2012 and 2020 and am now an arbitrator at Monckton Chambers, London as well as a Visiting Professor at a number of universities across Europe. I am standing for the committee, as I believe that I can make a significant and valuable contribution to the Branch, notably in four areas which I set out below.

By way of my background, I start by summarising my experience in arbitration and mediation. Fuller details of my cv are on my Chambers' website page which accompanies this manifesto. As a judge I sat on two major arbitration cases, including one involving a territorial dispute between Slovenia and Croatia where I was the Reporting Judge. Since returning to Chambers, I have sat as arbitrator in several substantial arbitrations, including in the field of sport. I have also sat as a mediator. In 2023 I was asked to deliver the keynote address to London branch which was entitled "*What makes a good arbitrator?*". The talk was subsequently published in the International Journal of Arbitration, Mediation and Dispute Management. In September 2025 I was a panellist at a Branch event on sport and arbitration.

The first area where I believe my experience and contacts within the international legal community would be of assistance is in raising the profile of the Branch. London is one of the leading arbitration centres in the world and the London Branch should continue to raise its profile both amongst the substantial London arbitration community and with the international community, through the overseas branches which may lead to attracting more members. I would hope to assist in this by attracting more good overseas speakers and collaborating in events with the overseas branches as well as ensuring high quality education events (see below).

The second area relates specifically to developing the work of the branch in sports arbitration and mediation. This is becoming an increasingly important area of dispute resolution which will be of interest to members. I have not only considerable practical experience in sitting as an arbitrator this field but also of the relevant sporting bodies and arbitral institutions.

The third area is the promotion and development of the branch's educational activities. This is important given that the CIArb is primarily an education institution. Due to my teaching, I have good links with a number of universities. I would like to organise events that bring the arbitration academic and practising communities together. I think it is also important to offer branch members the opportunity to keep up to date with practice and procedure in arbitration, such as the use of ADR and AI. In the case of AI it would benefit the branch to learn from the experience of the English judiciary which has recently begun to use AI. I would like the branch to be at the forefront of the debate of the use of ADR and AI.

Finally, I am a great believer in helping young people. When I was a judge I set up a trainee programme for young lawyers to spend time with me to see how the CJEU functioned. When I was on the committee of the United Kingdom Association of European Law (UKAEL) I started a students' evening which has become a regular fixture in the UKAEL calendar. I would therefore wish to support and develop the work of the Younger Members Group.

In conclusion, I believe that I can help the Branch provide increased membership value to its current and future membership. It would be an honour and privilege to be elected and serve

