



JEAN-FRANCOIS BELLIS

Jean-François Bellis is a founding partner of Van Bael & Bellis with decades of experience in competition and trade law. He has represented clients in major cases before the European Commission and EU Courts and has acted in landmark cases such as United Brands, Michelin I and II, Microsoft, and Intel. In 2014, he received the Chambers & Partners award for Outstanding Contribution to the Legal Profession, and in 2011, the Global Competition Review Lifetime Achievement Award. He has authored numerous publications and frequently speaks at international conferences and seminars. He is also a visiting professor of EU competition law at the University of Brussels (ULB) and lectures at the Brussels School of Competition.



PETER RIŽNIK

Peter Rižnik is an established international arbitrator based in Vienna and admitted as a solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales (non-practicing). He has extensive experience as arbitrator, counsel, and tribunal secretary in commercial and investment cases under major institutional and UNCITRAL rules. He has handled numerous high-profile disputes in sectors such as energy, construction, automotive, and pharmaceuticals, with particular regional expertise in Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe. Peter serves on the ICC Court of International Arbitration, its Commission on Arbitration and ADR, and the board of ArbCEE, and he also lectures at the University of Maribor. Known for his multilingual skills and procedural expertise, he is recognized for efficient case management and clear decisions in complex disputes.

NATAŠA PINTAR GOSENCA

Nataša Pintar Gosenca has represented the Government of Slovenia before international courts for over 17 years. She has acted in numerous cases before the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union, including an inter-state case and several preliminary ruling procedures. After new legislation gave the State Attorney's Office responsibility for investment arbitration, she led the development of a comprehensive representation model. This model, created with ministries and external counsel, ensures coordinated and professional arbitration strategies. Her work has been key to strengthening Slovenia's international legal representation.





DAVID PREMELČ

David Premelč is a senior partner at Rojs, Peljhan, Prelesnik & Partners, specializing in corporate law, international arbitration, cross-border litigation, M&A, data protection, AI, and environmental law. He advises on complex M&A deals involving public and private companies, joint ventures, and sell-side transactions. He has extensive experience representing clients in domestic and international arbitration under ICC, ICSID, and UNCITRAL rules. His clients include leading multinational companies in energy, technology, media, retail, and pharmaceuticals. David is also widely published and a frequent speaker at legal conferences in Slovenia and abroad.

ALPTUG TOKESER

Alptuğ (Alp) Tokeşer, LL.M., admitted to the Istanbul Bar in 2011, is an arbitration specialist with extensive experience in international investment and commercial disputes. After starting his career in cross-border litigation, he focused on arbitration, completing the MIDS program in Geneva and joining LALIVE's arbitration team in 2012. Over the past decade, he has acted as counsel, tribunal secretary, and arbitrator in complex cases under ICC, Swiss Arbitration Centre, PCA, ISTAC, UNCITRAL, and ad hoc rules. His work spans multiple industries, including energy, construction, and infrastructure, and involves diverse legal systems such as Turkish and Swiss law, as well as cases affected by US, EU, and UN sanctions. Alp has also represented both States and investors in investment treaty arbitrations under bilateral and multilateral treaties, including ICSID and UNCITRAL proceedings.





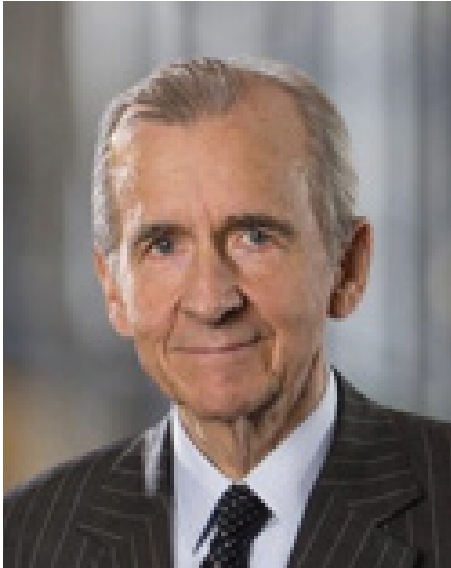
MATIJA URANKAR

Matija Urankar is a partner at Senica & Partners, Ltd. and an attorney admitted to the Slovenian Bar, with the firm since 2015. He earned his Master's degree at the University of Ljubljana, studied abroad at Leiden University, and completed an LL.M. in Tax Law at the University of San Francisco. He leads the firm's department for constitutional and certain public law matters, including spatial planning, construction, and environmental law. His work focuses on dispute resolution before courts and arbitration, as well as legal advisory services, particularly in legislative and public policy matters. Additionally, he coordinates the firm's global mobility projects, with a focus on immigration law.



PETRA RIHAR

Petra Rihar is a Slovenian-Swiss arbitration practitioner based in Zurich with over 20 years of experience in complex two-party and multi-party arbitrations under both civil and common law systems. She specializes in disputes related to shareholders' agreements, M&A, joint ventures, construction, engineering, and international sales, licensing, and service agreements. Petra has also handled cases involving states and state-owned entities across industries such as financial services, energy, aviation, and technology. Before founding her own practice in 2013, she worked at leading international law firms in Zurich and London. She holds a law degree from the University of Zurich, an LLM from Columbia Law School, a PhD from the University of Lucerne, is admitted to all Swiss courts, and is recognized as a Thought Leader by the Lexology Index.



CHRISTOPHER SEPPÄLÄ

Christopher Seppälä is an independent arbitrator and legal consultant with extensive experience in international commercial arbitration. He has acted as counsel or arbitrator in hundreds of cases, including multi-billion-dollar construction disputes of high legal and factual complexity. He is a former Vice-President Emeritus of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and served as Legal Advisor to the FIDIC Contracts Committee. Christopher is the author of *The FIDIC Red Book Contract: An International Clause-by-Clause Commentary* (2023, Wolters Kluwer). He is a member of the New York Bar and an emeritus member of the Paris Bar.



NASTJA MERLAK

Nastja Merlak is a partner at Jadek & Pensa in Ljubljana, Slovenia. She advises on complex corporate and M&A matters, with a particular focus on transactions involving a cross-border element. Alongside her transactional practice, her expertise covers a broad range of commercial matters, with particular in-depth experience in international commercial arbitration. Her background in corporate law and financial regulation enables her to approach arbitration from a fresh perspective and bring specialist insight to financial and M&A-related disputes. Nastja holds an LL.M. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she wrote her thesis on the potential of arbitration in complex financial disputes.



NEJC LAHNE

Nejc Lahne is Managing Director for the Slovenian market in an international energy company, with active involvement in cross-border projects. Strong business and legal background with expertise in governance, stakeholder management, dispute resolution, and international collaboration. Skilled in business development, project leadership, and process optimization, with a proven track record in driving growth and delivering measurable results.



PETJA PLAUSTAJNER

Petja Plaustajner has practiced law at the Law Office Plaustajner since 2007, specializing in civil, commercial, and contract law. She has extensive experience in international arbitration, particularly construction disputes under FIDIC contracts, appearing before VIAC, ICC Paris, and LAC. She advises clients on construction law and FIDIC-governed investment projects and has served on Dispute Adjudication Boards. Academically active, she participates in professional conferences, seminars, and publications. Petja is involved in the Slovenian Bar Association, serves as a delegate to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, and has been a member of the LAC Presidency since 2022.



MAJA MENARD

Dr. Maja Menard is managing partner and head of dispute resolution at Fatur Menard Law Firm in Slovenia, with nearly 20 years of experience in domestic and international disputes. She regularly acts as counsel in international cases, including before the European Commission, the General Court, the Court of Justice of the EU, and the European Court of Human Rights. Maja has extensive experience advising clients and serving as arbitrator under various arbitral institutions and rules. She is a member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, the ICC Institute of World Business Law, sits on multiple international arbitrator panels, and is the Slovenia-appointed arbitrator with the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. Admitted to the Paris and Slovenian Bars, she also lectures and publishes on her areas of expertise.



THIERRY LINARES

Thierry Linares leads the Construction practice of FTI Consulting's Forensic and Litigation team in Paris and joined the firm in 2016. He has over 20 years of experience managing project controls, including planning, costing, risk management, variations, and contracts, on both contractor and client sides. Thierry and his team of 17 engineers specialize in analyzing delays and costs of construction projects with a technical approach. He has frequently testified as a delay and quantum expert in ICC arbitrations and has been recognized by Who's Who Legal as a leading Consulting Expert since 2018. Thierry also serves on standing dispute boards in various countries and is listed as an adjudicator on the FIDIC President's panel.



TAMARA MANISAVLJEVIĆ

Tamara Manisavljević is an arbitrator and counsel based in Vienna, admitted to the Croatian and Austrian Bars. She has participated in over 30 arbitration proceedings in roles including counsel, arbitrator, and tribunal secretary under ICC, VIAC, UNCITRAL, SCC, and Zagreb Rules. Her experience covers construction and engineering disputes under FIDIC, energy sector disputes, sanctions-related matters, M&A, joint ventures, and various commercial agreements across nearly 20 legal systems. Tamara holds a law degree from the University of Rijeka and an LL.M. from the University of Vienna. She is a founding member and current Board member of the Arbitration Association of Central and Eastern Europe (ArbCEE).



JANEZ ŠKRABEC

Janez Škrabec is the founder and managing director of Riko, d.o.o., and holds a degree in economics from the University of Ljubljana, with postgraduate studies at IEDC – Bled School of Management, Cleveland State University, and INSEAD. He founded Riko in 1991, a company recognized for its work in green and digital transformation across the region. For his entrepreneurial achievements, he has received Slovenia's most prestigious business awards. Beyond business, he serves as the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Morocco and is president of the Slovenian Consular Corps. He actively integrates economic, cultural, and diplomatic initiatives in his professional and civic engagements.



ROBERT A. WERTH

Robert A. Werth holds a degree in International Commercial Arbitration from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, is a Fellow of the Institute, and is a Dipl.-Ing in Civil Engineering and Construction. He is listed on the FIDIC President's List of Approved Dispute Adjudicators and serves on panels of other institutions, also sworn as an expert for quantum and FIDIC conditions. He began his career as Principal Engineer managing large infrastructure projects before becoming a full-time dispute resolution practitioner. Since then, he has acted as arbitrator, adjudicator, and dispute board member on international contracts, often serving as an expert witness. Robert has been appointed by ICC, FIDIC, LCIA, the German Arbitration Institute, KfW, and chambers of commerce in Ethiopia and Georgia, and served as an ICC Germany Delegate to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR from 2020 to 2024.



PROF. DR. TOMISLAV BORIC

Tomislav Borić is a Distinguished University Professor of Law at the University of Graz since 2003 and currently serves as Deputy Head of the Institute for Corporate and International Commercial Law. His academic career includes positions at the Universities of Vienna, Zagreb, and Mostar. He has extensive experience as an arbitrator in several international arbitration courts across Austria, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. From 2004 to 2014, he directed the LL.M. programme “South East European Law and European Integration” at the University of Graz. He holds degrees in law and Slavonic studies from the University of Graz.