

Enforcement 2017

Czech Republic

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Applicable procedural law for recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards

1 What is the applicable procedural law for recognition and enforcement of an arbitral award in your jurisdiction? Is your jurisdiction party to treaties facilitating recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards?

In the Czech Republic, recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards is governed by two sets of rules: international treaties and domestic law. As a general rule, international treaties take precedence over domestic rules if there are conflicting provisions (article 10 of the Constitution).

In the domestic leg, recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards is predominantly governed by Part 7 of the Act on Private International Law. In addition, other laws also regulate various aspects of enforcement of foreign and domestic arbitral awards, in particular Part 6 of the Civil Procedure Code, which sets our rules of court enforcement procedure, the Act on Arbitral Proceedings and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards, which regulates, inter alia, setting aside of domestic arbitral awards and termination of adjudicated enforcement of arbitral awards, and the Act on Court Bailiffs and Execution, which provides for the powers and activities of court bailiffs regarding enforcement and related issues.

The Czech Republic is a party to several multilateral treaties facilitating recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards, in particular: the 1927 Geneva Convention on the Execution of Foreign Arbitral Awards, the 1958 New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the New York Convention), the 1961 European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration (the Geneva Convention) and the 1965 Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States.

The Czech Republic has also entered into several bilateral treaties on legal aid, governing, inter alia, recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards, including with Afghanistan (1983), Albania (1960), Croatia (1964), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1964), Montenegro (1964), Slovenia (1964), Serbia (1964), Cyprus (1983), Greece (1983), Hungary (1990), Mongolia (1978), Slovakia (1993), Spain (1989), Switzerland (1929), Syria (1986), Tunisia (1981), Vietnam (1984), Yemen (1990).

2 Is the state a party to the 1958 New York Convention? If yes, what is the date of entry into force of the

Convention? Was there any reservation made under article I(3) of the Convention?

The Czech Republic is a successor state of the Republic of Czechoslovakia, which signed the Convention on 3 October 1958 and ratified on 27 April 1959. The New York Convention entered into force subsequently on 10 October 1959. For the successor state, the Czech Republic, the New York Convention has been in force since 1 January 1993, while the instrument of succession was deposited with the Secretary General of the United Nations on 30 September 1993.

Upon signing of the Convention, Czechoslovakia made the reservations under article I(3) of the Convention. Accordingly, from the Czech perspective, the Convention applies to recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards issued in the territory of another contracting state and to arbitral awards of non-parties on the basis of reciprocity.

Recognition proceedings

3 Which court has jurisdiction over an application for recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards?

Jurisdiction over applications for recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards (both foreign and domestic) lies with the court of first instance, usually a district court of place where the enforcement debtor permanently resides, or stays in absence of residence, where the place of business of an entrepreneur is located, or where the seat of a legal person is. If the court of first instance cannot be determined through these rules, the court of the place where property of the debtor is located has jurisdiction. The governing provisions are sections 9, 11, 84, 85 and 252 of the Civil Procedure Code.

Only domestic court awards can be alternatively enforced through licensed court bailiffs under the Act on Court Bailiffs and Execution. The bailiffs could exceptionally enforce also a foreign arbitral award if confirmation of enforceability of a foreign arbitral award was issued under directly applicable law of the European Union or international treaty, or where the decision on recognition was issued prior to the enforcement (ie, in another jurisdiction).

4 What are the requirements for the court to have jurisdiction over an application for recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards? Must the applicant identify assets within the jurisdiction of the court that will be the subject of enforcement for the purpose of recognition proceedings?

In the Czech Republic, foreign arbitral awards (ie, in arbitrations seated outside the territory of the Czech Republic) are not subject to separate

formal decision on recognition. Pursuant to section 122 of the Act on Private International Law, foreign arbitral awards are recognised within the enforcement proceedings where recognition of the award represents a preliminary question to be positively answered, and adequately reasoned, by the court when deciding on enforcement of the award.

Accordingly, in the Czech Republic, the award creditor shall apply directly for enforcement of an award, as he would in case of domestic arbitral award. An application solely for recognition of an award is to be rejected by Czech courts.

The applicant is obligated to state in the application preferred method of enforcement, essentially thus identifying assets of the debtor that will be attached. Further requirements for application vary depending on proposed method of enforcement. To this end, pursuant to section 261 of the Civil Procedure Code, the award creditor is obligated in his petition for enforcement of a pecuniary obligation to stipulate proposed method of such enforcement and to specify: wages payer of the award debtor (if attachment of wages is requested), name of a bank and number of debtor's bank account (if attachment of a receivable from an account maintained by a bank is requested), award debtor's debtor or obligated person and title of award debtor's receivable against such persons (if assignment of a receivable other than from debtor's bank account is requested).

5 Are the recognition proceedings in your jurisdiction adversarial or ex parte?

Although the award debtor is formally a party to the enforcement proceedings (and recognition of the award forms an integral part thereof), the court generally decides on the application and adjudicates enforcement of the award ex parte on the basis of application filed by the award creditor, without a formal hearing or involvement of the award debtor (section 253 of the Civil Procedure Code).

The decision on enforcements is, however, served on the award debtor who can appeal the decision within 15 days upon its receipt and can, in the appellate proceedings, submit new facts and evidence regarding adjudication of the enforcement, including recognition of the award.

6 What documentation is required to obtain the recognition of an arbitral award?

An application for enforcement of an award must satisfy general requirements for court submissions set out in section 42 of the Civil Procedure Code, ie the application must contain identification of the competent court and the award creditor, must set out basis on which the application is based, as well as statement of the relief sought.

If the award is issued in an arbitration seated in a contracting state of the New York Convention, article IV of the Convention applies which requires the applicant to submit to the court duly authenticated original award of certified copy thereof and the original arbitration agreement or a duly certified copy thereof.

In case of domestic awards, or foreign awards issued in arbitrations seated in non-contracting states to the New York Convention, section 261(2) of the Civil Procedure Code applies, and a party applying for enforcement of an arbitral award must submit to the court original or certified copy of the award together with confirmation of its enforceability, executed either on the first page of the award or in a separate document or in any other manner in accordance with the law of the seat of the arbitration or law governing the award.

7 If the required documentation is drafted in another language than the official language of your jurisdiction, is it necessary to submit a translation together with an application to obtain recognition

of an arbitral award? If yes, in what form must the translation be?

If the required documents referred to in question 6 are drafted in a language other than Czech, the party seeking enforcement of the award must submit full translations of these documents, which shall be certified by an official or sworn translator or by a diplomatic or consular agent (article IV(2) of the New York Convention).

8 What are the other practical requirements relating to recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards?

A party applying for enforcement of an arbitral award through a court must pay court fees for its application as determined by the Act on Court Fees. The fees vary depending on object of the enforcement and, in case of pecuniary obligations, are typically set as a percentage of the enforced amount.

Other costs related with enforcement of an arbitral award include costs of legal representation, which will, however, be usually borne by the award debtor in case of successful enforcement. Nonetheless, legal representation of the applicant is not obligatory.

9 Do courts recognise and enforce partial or interim awards?

Pursuant to section 251 of the Civil Procedure Code, only enforceable decisions that impose obligations will be enforced (and recognised in case of foreign arbitral awards) by Czech courts.

Accordingly, partial arbitral awards will be generally enforced under Czech law, provided that they stipulate an obligation that is binding on a party and a deadline for the performance of this obligation.

By contrast, interim arbitral awards which typically do not impose any obligations on the parties will not be enforced under Czech law. For determination, Czech courts will not be bound by the respective title of the award, but rather by relief rendered.

10 What are the grounds on which an award may be refused recognition? Are the grounds applied by the courts different from the ones provided under article V of the Convention?

Applicable grounds for refusal of recognition of foreign arbitral awards in the Czech Republic are set out both in the New York Convention and domestic law, and overlap to a great extent.

With respect to foreign awards issued in a state that is a party to the Convention, the Czech courts directly apply article V of the New York Convention setting out possible grounds for refusal of recognition or arbitral awards.

According to the case law of the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic, when deciding on an application for enforcement, the courts shall ex officio review grounds for refusal listed in article V(2) of the Convention, ie that the subject matter is capable of settlement by arbitration and that the award is not contrary to public policy. Grounds for refusal listed in para 1 of article V of the Convention (relating to incapacity of the parties or invalidity of the arbitration agreement, lack of due process including absence of proper notice of appointment of the arbitrators or of the proceedings, jurisdictional issues, irregularities in composition of the tribunal, non-binding, set aside or suspended award) shall be, pursuant to the text of the Convention, reviewed by the courts only at the request of the award debtor and will be therefore reviewed by the courts only upon appeal of the award debtor against the court decision on enforcement of the award (and inherently recognising the award at the same time) or upon debtor's application for termination of enforcement proceedings (which is further discussed in question 11).

Recognition of foreign awards issued in non-contracting states is governed by sections 120 and 121 of the Act on Private International Law and recognition or enforcement will be refused if (i) the foreign state does not reciprocally recognise and enforce Czech arbitral awards, (ii) the award has not become final and enforceable under the law of the country in which or under law of which it was issued, (iii) the award has been set aside in the country in which or under law of which it was issued, (iv) grounds for setting aside of a Czech arbitration award exist or (v) the award contravenes public policy.

Grounds for setting aside of domestic awards are listed in section 31 of the Act on Arbitral Proceedings and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards and include: (i) lack of arbitrability, (ii) invalid arbitration agreement, (iii) incapacity of arbitrators, (iv) award not approved by majority of arbitrators, (v) lack of due process, (vi) unsolicited, impossible or unlawful relief and (vii) existence of grounds for renewal of proceedings in civil proceedings.

11 What is the effect of a decision recognising the award in your jurisdiction? Is it immediately enforceable? What challenges are available against a decision recognising an arbitral award in your jurisdiction?

Under Czech law, there are three possible avenues to challenge recognition of an award via a decision on enforcement of the award (including recognition of the award which is, as explained in question 4, inextricably intertwined with the decision of the competent court on enforcement).

First, the award debtor can appeal the court decision ordering enforcement of the award, pursuant to section 254 of the Civil Procedure Code, within 15 days upon service of the court decision. In the appeal, the award debtor can claim grounds for refusal of recognition of the award (as to particular grounds see question 10). The regional court has jurisdiction over the appeal, and enforceability of the award is suspended until decision on the appeal.

Second, the award debtor can apply for termination of the enforcement proceedings after the court ordered enforcement proceedings, if it is ascertained that the award has not become enforceable, the award has been suspended or set aside or other reasons relating to enforcement of the award as provided for in section 268 of the Civil Procedure Code materialise. Similarly, the award debtor can apply for termination of the enforcement proceedings for additional grounds set out in section 35 of the Act on Arbitral Proceedings and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards, namely that the award was not approved by majority of arbitrators, the award provides for relief that was not requested by the claimant or that is impossible or unlawful under the Czech law, and other reason concerning lack of mandatory representation of the party to the proceedings. The court shall suspend the enforcement, and the award debtor is obliged to apply for setting aside of the award with the competent court (a foreign court with respect to foreign awards) within 30 days, otherwise the enforcement proceedings will resume.

Third available challenge concerns domestic awards only in the form of an application for setting aside of a domestic award, which can be filed within three months upon service of the award with the regional court in which district the arbitration was seated. Commencement of proceedings on setting aside of the award does, however, not suspend enforcement of the award (see also question 13).

12 What challenges are available against a decision refusing to recognise an arbitral award in your jurisdiction?

A decision of a district court refusing to recognise an award (and hence rejecting the application for enforcement of the award) can be appealed

by the award creditor to the regional court within 15 days from service of the award.

13 Will the courts adjourn the recognition or enforcement proceedings pending the outcome of annulment proceedings at the seat of the arbitration? What trends, if any, are suggested by recent decisions? What are the factors considered by courts to adjourn recognition or enforcement?

Article VI of the New York Convention is directly applicable and provides the competent court with a discretion to adjourn recognition and enforcement proceedings if an application for setting aside or suspension of the award is pending. However, there is no prominent case law applying this article by Czech courts.

As regards awards issued in non-contracting countries, enforcement proceedings will not be adjourned pending annulment proceedings at the seat of the arbitration. Pursuant to section 121 of the Act on Private International Law, enforcement will be suspended only when the award has been set aside.

Similarly, request for setting aside of a domestic award does not automatically eventuate in adjournment of enforcement of the award. Pursuant to section 32 of the Act on Arbitral Proceedings and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards, the court may, however, adjourn enforceability of the award upon request of the award debtor, if immediate enforcement would cause significant harm or the application for setting aside of the award is prima facie well-founded. Application for setting aside of domestic awards must be lodged with the competent court within three months from service of the award.

Another means to achieve adjournment of enforcement of an award is provided for in section 266 of the Civil Procedure Code under which the court may adjourn performance of enforcement, if it can be reasonably expected that the enforcement will be terminated upon application of the award debtor (see question 11).

14 If the courts adjourn the recognition or enforcement proceedings pending the annulment proceedings, will the defendant to the recognition or enforcement proceedings be ordered to post security? What are the factors considered by courts to order security? Based on recent case law, what are the form and amount of the security to be posted by the party resisting enforcement?

Article VI of the New York Convention provides a court adjourning decision on enforcement of an arbitral award with a discretion, upon application of the award creditor, to order the award debtor to provide suitable security. This provision is, however, not mirrored in Czech law and such process would be rather unusual from the Czech law perspective; accordingly, there is no prominent case law on adjournment or ordering security pursuant to the Convention by the Czech courts.

15 Is it possible to obtain the recognition and enforcement of an award that has been fully or partly set aside at the seat of the arbitration? In case the award is set aside after the decision recognising the award has been issued, what challenges are available against this decision?

Awards set aside at the place of arbitration are not recognised in the Czech Republic pursuant to article V(1)(e) of the New York Convention, provided that the award debtor invokes this ground for refusal of recognition either in an appeal to the first instance court decision on enforcement of the award or in an application to terminate the enforcement (see also question 11).

In addition, the Czech Republic is a party to the Geneva Convention, which in article IX provides more favourable rules for recognition of awards that have been set aside at the seat of arbitration and limits the grounds of refusal to: (i) incapacity of the parties or invalidity of the agreement, (ii) violation of due process, (iii) unsolicited relief and (iv) violation of the rules on composition of arbitral tribunal. Pursuant to article VII of the New York Convention these rules of Geneva Convention will take precedence when applicable.

With respect to foreign awards outside of the scope of the above described conventions, section 121(b) of the Act on Private International Law provides that recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral award shall be refused if the award has been set aside in the state of its issuance or under the law of the state of issuance.

If the award is set aside after the court already decided on enforcement of the award (recognizing thus inherently the award), the award debtor can request termination of enforcement of the award on those grounds under section 268(1)(b) of the Civil Procedure Code.

Service

16 What is the applicable procedure for service of extrajudicial and judicial documents to a defendant in your jurisdiction?

Domestic service of process of extrajudicial and judicial documents is governed by the Civil Procedure Code (sections 45–50e). The service of process is primarily effected by courts at the hearing or within another judicial act, through public data service in electronic data box of the addressee, if available, or via public mail. Important judicial documents must be served via registered mail with acknowledgment of receipt (personal service). The Civil Procedure Code provides for detailed rules on when is the process of services considered effective in case of service through public mail, if the addressee fails to acknowledge receipt. In case of personal service, the addressee has 10 days to collect the documents, upon expiry of which period is the service considered effective even if the addressee fails to do so (service by substitution).

Service of process from EU member states to defendants residing in the Czech Republic is governed by the EU Service Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 1393/2007). The designated central body under the Regulation is the Ministry of Justice and the competent receiving authorities are district courts in the territory of which the addressees have their residence or seat.

Service of process of documents from non-member EU states is governed by the multilateral 1965 Hague Service Convention.

17 What is the applicable procedure for service of extrajudicial and judicial documents to a defendant out of your jurisdiction?

The service of process among EU member states is governed by the EU Service Regulation; for details see question 16.

Service of process outside of the EU is governed by the multilateral 1965 Hague Service Convention which allows for service of process of judicial and extrajudicial documents. The service is effected by the Ministry of Justice, which attends to more complex issues regarding to service of process, and by courts, public prosecutors and court bailiffs as sending authorities.

Identification of assets

18 Are there any databases or publicly available registers allowing the identification of an award debtor's assets within your jurisdiction?

There are several public registers and databases which allow for identification of award debtor's assets in the Czech Republic, including (i) trade register for shares in companies; (ii) land register for land or other

immovable property; (iii) vehicle register; and (iv) Industrial Property Office register for information on industrial and intellectual property rights. In most cases, the information in the registers is accessible online and free of charge.

19 Are there any proceedings allowing for the disclosure of information about an award debtor within your jurisdiction?

An award creditor who has a monetary receivable against the award debtor can apply to the court to summon the award debtor to make a declaration of property (section 260a and following of the Civil Procedure Code).

An application for declaration of property must precede the application for enforcement, and the court shall grant the application if the award creditor submits evidence that it was impossible to satisfy his receivable via enforcement of the award by assignment of a receivable of the award debtor. The application must append original or certified copy of the award.

If summoned, the award debtor is obligated to appear before the court and disclose information regarding his real property, moveables, bank accounts, wage payer and receivables (section 260e of the Civil Procedure Code).

Enforcement proceedings

20 Are interim measures against assets available in your jurisdiction? May award creditors apply such interim measures against assets owned by a sovereign state?

In the Czech Republic, interim measures against assets are generally available. Jurisdiction to issue interim measures in the arbitration context lies with the courts which will, upon application, render interim measures provided that a party to arbitral proceedings demonstrates that future enforcement of the arbitral award is threatened.

On the basis of section 76 of the Civil Procedure Code, the Czech courts have developed in their case law number of interim measures, namely: mandatory deposit of moveable property, ban on transfer of property, obligation to refrain from certain actions, etc.

Czech law provides for no specific rules on interim measures against a sovereign state. Accordingly, general rules on immunities apply and a court can render interim measure against state assets used for commercial purposes, but not against assets which serve for government functions (see question 31).

21 What is the procedure to apply interim measures against assets in your jurisdiction? Is it a requirement to obtain prior court authorisation before applying interim measures? If yes, are such proceedings ex parte?

Prior to commencement of an arbitration or in its course, a court may issue interim measures if it is demonstrated by a party to the arbitration that future enforcement of the award is threatened. To this end, the applicant must essentially demonstrate that a party transfers or depreciates assets.

An applicant for interim measures must set out what kind of interim measure he seeks and make a security deposit with the court's account in the amount of CZK10,000, or CZK50,000 in case of a commercial dispute.

The competent court is the court in the seat of the arbitration or, with respect to arbitrations seated outside of the Czech Republic, the court which would have jurisdiction to decide the dispute in absence of arbitration agreement (the relevant provisions are sections 74 and following, 102 of the Civil Procedure Code and sections 22 and 41 of the Act on Arbitral Proceedings and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards).

The court decides without hearing from the defendant and orders interim measure immediately upon service of the application or, exceptionally, within seven days (section 75c of the Civil Procedure Code).

The decision ordering interim measure is immediately enforceable upon service to the defendant and while it can be appealed within 15 days upon service, the appeal does not suspend enforceability of the measure.

22 What is the procedure for interim measures against immovable property within your jurisdiction?

There are no specific rules regarding interim measures against immovable property. Therefore, the general rules as described in question 21 apply.

23 What is the procedure for interim measures against moveable property within your jurisdiction?

There are no specific rules regarding interim measures against moveable property. Therefore, the general rules as described in question 21 apply.

24 What is the procedure for interim measures against intangible property within your jurisdiction?

There are no specific rules regarding interim measures against intangible property. Therefore, the general rules as described in question 21 apply.

25 What is the procedure to attach assets in your jurisdiction? Is it a requirement to obtain prior court authorisation before attaching assets? If yes, are such proceedings ex parte?

Attachment of assets is effected through court enforcement proceedings initiated upon an application of the award creditor for enforcement of the award. Domestic awards are also enforced by court bailiffs (see question 3).

The enforcement proceedings comprise of two stages: (i) decision of the court ordering enforcement, and (ii) performance of enforcement by the court. It is in the second phase that debtor's assets are attached.

In his application, the creditor shall specify what assets he prefers to attach and the court generally upholds such application, provided that the proposed measure of attachment is not manifestly inadequate to the claim of the creditor. The court usually orders enforcement without hearing from the award debtor (section 253 of the Civil Procedure Code, see also question 5), determines particular means of attachment of assets and decides on costs of the proceedings which are generally covered by the debtor (section 270 of the Civil Procedure Code). At the same time, the court bans the debtor to dispose of assets which are subject to the enforcement (the ban is also registered in the land register where appropriate).

The decision ordering enforcement is served on the debtor and can be appealed within 15 days upon service; if appealed, the enforcement is suspended until the decision is confirmed by the appellate court.

Subsequently, the court proceeds ex officio with the enforcement and attaches particular assets for satisfaction of the creditor. Attached assets are appraised by the court or court-appointed appraiser and frequently sold in a public auction.

26 What is the procedure for enforcement measures against immovable property within your jurisdiction?

The procedure described in question 25 applies; the court where the real property is located has jurisdiction to decide on enforcement proceedings and to attach assets.

Measures for attachment of immovable property include: (i) compulsory administration of the real property; (ii) establishment of lien over the property; (iii) mandatory sale of the real property (sections 320b, 338b and 335 of the Civil Procedure Code); and (iv) forced vacation and division of real property where non-pecuniary claims are enforced (sections 340 and 348 of the Civil Procedure Code).

27 What is the procedure for enforcement measures against moveable property within your jurisdiction?

The procedure described in question 25 applies. In general, measures for attachment of moveable property include: (i) attachment of wages or other income; (ii) attachment of receivables towards banks, (iii) attachment of other pecuniary claims or other proprietary rights; (iv) sale of moveable property; and (v) attachment of enterprise.

Several other measures are available if non-pecuniary claim is enforced, such as division of the property or ordering a performance or conduct of work by the debtor.

28 What is the procedure for enforcement measures against intangible property within your jurisdiction?

There is no specific procedure for enforcement measures against intangible property. Therefore, the procedure described in question 25 and the measures for attachment against moveable property described in question 27 apply.

Enforcement against foreign states

29 Are there any rules in your jurisdiction that specifically govern recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards against foreign states?

There are no specific domestic rules for recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards against foreign states. Accordingly, the general rules on recognition and enforcement are applicable, together with rules on state immunities (discussed in question 31).

30 What is the applicable procedure for service of extrajudicial and judicial documents to a foreign state?

Under the Act on Private International law (section 7(5)), service of process to a foreign state is conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs via the diplomatic channels.

31 Are assets belonging to a foreign state immune from enforcement in your jurisdiction? If yes, are there exceptions to such immunity?

Pursuant to section 7(1) of the Act on Private International Law, foreign states are generally exempted from enforcement in the Czech Republic, provided that the proceedings concern property used for governmental functions. Therefore, the courts can enforce arbitral awards only with respect to state property used for commercial purposes.

This notion of restrictive immunity has been repeatedly applied by the Czech Supreme Court in the context of disputes against foreign states (jurisdictional immunity), although not specifically in proceedings relating to state immunity within enforcement proceedings.

32 Is it possible for a foreign state to waive immunity from enforcement in your jurisdiction? If yes, what are the requirements of such waiver?

There are no specific provisions on waiver of a foreign state's immunity from enforcement in Czech law. General rules of international law on immunities, which enable a state to waive immunity with respect to enforcement, should thus apply. There is, however, no published case law to support this course of action of Czech courts.



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Barbora Šnáblová is the founding partner of Barbora Šnáblová Attorneys, an arbitration boutique based in Prague. Before founding her law firm in 2015, Barbora has worked for over 10 years on litigation and arbitration teams of leading international law firms in Prague and she also served as independent consulting counsel in treaty disputes and international commercial disputes.

Barbora has represented domestic and foreign companies and sovereign governments in both ad hoc arbitrations and arbitrations under the ICC and UNCITRAL rules. She has extensive experience arbitrating claims under bilateral investment treaties.

Barbora has also represented clients before variety of courts, including the Supreme Administrative Court, the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic.

Barbora has been involved in complex national and international litigations and commercial arbitrations across variety of sectors, such as electric energy production, banking, real estate, gaming or telecommunications. She advises clients on cross-border issues, drafting of arbitration agreements and pre-dispute strategy and enforcement of arbitral awards.

Barbora is listed as arbitrator by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Czech Republic and she is a member of the Arbitration Commission of the Czech Basketball Federation.

Barbora holds a law degree from Utrecht University, and master's degrees from Charles University in Prague and London School of Economics and Political Science, where she studied international dispute resolution and financial law.

She is a solicitor for the Czech Republic. She is proficient in English and Czech and fluent in German.



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Kristýna Urbanová primarily specialises in public international law, including in arbitration and litigation context. She also regularly advises on regulatory and commercial law issues and represents clients before Czech courts.

Before joining Barbora Šnáblová Attorneys in 2015, Kristýna has acquired extensive experience in one of the leading international law firms in Prague, where she advised governmental bodies on public procurement issues in major construction projects, was involved in organisation and administration of public tenders and representing government bodies in disputes, both before competent administrative bodies (such as the Office for Protection of Competition) and courts, including the Supreme Administrative Court, Supreme Court and Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic. She has also advised on competition law issues, particularly in the context of telecommunications, and took part in regulatory litigations in a variety of sectors.

Kristýna holds a master's law degree from University of Cambridge, where she focused on public international law, including arbitration, and European competition law. She also received a master's degree from Charles University in Prague. Currently she is pursuing her PhD at Charles University, where her research is focused on public international law issues. Besides her PhD, she also regularly teaches course of public international law for master's law students and participates in teaching of subjects on international economic law and international criminal law. She is a solicitor for the Czech Republic and is proficient in English and Czech.

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