

Lunch DIScussions  
11 December 2025, 1-2 pm

## The Jura Novit Curia Principle in International Commercial Arbitration

How far may arbitrators go when identifying and applying the law? And where are the limits of jura novit curia in modern international arbitration?

In this session, we explore one of arbitration's most delicate balancing acts: the tribunal's truth-seeking mandate on the one hand, and party autonomy, equal treatment, and the prohibition of surprise decisions on the other. We will discuss:

- whether arbitrators may raise legal issues sua sponte,
- how far discretion can go before fairness is compromised, and
- the risks for enforceability when tribunals rely on legal grounds not pleaded by the parties.

Despite soft-law guidance attempting to harmonize practice, uncertainty remains high and the stakes for award validity are significant. Join us for an insightful lunchtime exchange on a principle that continues to shape the boundaries of fair and predictable arbitral decision-making.

### Programme

#### Welcome address

**Karsten Grillitsch**

German Arbitration Institute (DIS), Bonn/Berlin

#### Discussion

**Mohamed Abdel Wahab**

Zulficar & Partners, Cairo

**Dassel Muksunova**

Mueller Wagner Advocates, Moscow

**Sebastiano Nesi**

Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, Geneva/London

#### Moderator

**Thomas Riehm**

University of Passau

### Registration

The event will be held in the form of a video conference. There will be an alternative option to participate by audio only. Participation in this event is free of charge.

Please register **by 9 December 2025** via the link below.

By registering you accept the [DIS General Terms and Conditions](#) for Conferences and Workshops. Registered participants will receive the access details by email prior to the event.

Please address any questions to [events@disarb.org](mailto:events@disarb.org).

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