

INVITATION

The [Swiss Chamber of Commercial Mediation \(SCCM / SKWM / CSMC\)](#), with the support of the [Swiss Federation of Mediation \(FSM\)](#), is pleased to invite you to an in-person, roundtable discussion on:

Switzerland and the Singapore Convention on Mediation

Business needs, policy choices and next steps

 **Thursday, 5 March 2026**

 **14h30–17h30, followed by an apéritif** 

 **Language: English**

Venue & Access

 **Venue:** Kursaal Bern, Kornhausstrasse 3, 3013 Bern

 **Tram:** Line No. 9 from Bern Hauptbahnhof directly to “Kursaal”

 **On foot:** Approximately 12–15 minutes walk from Bern Hauptbahnhof

 **Parking:** On-site underground parking available (240 spaces)

Purpose and format

This session is conceived as an interactive, policy-oriented dialogue, rather than a traditional conference. It will centre on exchanges:

-  between the panel and the audience, and
-  among the panellists themselves,

to explore key questions that have emerged in Swiss and international discussions, including:

- what Swiss dispute resolution users (businesses) are seeking in terms of time, cost, enforceability, efficiency and relationship preservation;
- whether accession to the Singapore Convention on Mediation could address some of these needs, and under what conditions;
- what information or evidence is still missing to allow an informed policy decision;
- whether Switzerland should consider moving now, or rather await further developments at the EU level.

The discussion will also include a brief synthesis of data and feedback received to date from economic, institutional and academic perspectives, including comparative insights from other jurisdictions.

Opening contribution

The discussion will open with a brief recorded video message from **The Honourable Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon**, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore, offering high-level reflections on the international significance of mediation and the emergence of the Singapore Convention.

Panellists

Professor Nadja Alexander (Singapore)  : Professor of Law and Director of the Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy (SIDRA) at Singapore Management University, and a globally recognised international commercial mediator. Co-author of a leading book on the Singapore Convention on Mediation, she is widely known for her work on mediation law reform, dispute system design, and cross-border commercial mediation, combining deep academic insight with extensive practical experience advising governments, institutions and users worldwide.

Professor Daniel Girsberger (Switzerland)  : Professor of Swiss and International Private, Procedural and Business Law at the University of Lucerne and counsel with Kaufmann Ruedi Attorneys-at-Law. A certified SCCM and Swiss Bar Association mediator, he has published extensively on arbitration and ADR, including on the Singapore Convention and its implications for Swiss law, bringing a rigorous Swiss doctrinal, comparative and policy-focused perspective to the discussion.

George Lim, SC (Singapore)  : Senior Counsel of the Supreme Court of Singapore, international commercial and investor–state mediator, and Chair of the Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC). A former President of the Law Society of Singapore and a founding Director of the International Mediation Institute (IMI), he has acted in numerous complex cross-border and investor–state mediations. A key adviser to the Singapore government on the Singapore Convention on Mediation, he was also Singapore’s mediation consultant to UNCITRAL Working Group II and remains actively involved in discussions with states considering accession, ratification and implementation.

Thomas Mayer (Switzerland)  : Legal officer at the Swiss Federal Office of Justice (FOJ), in the Section for International Private and Civil Procedure Law. He works on cross-border civil procedure matters and related legislation, including issues connected with international judicial cooperation and the increasing use of electronic communication in transnational proceedings. His participation will allow the discussion to benefit from an administrative perspective on the policy and implementation questions raised by the Singapore Convention in the Swiss civil and commercial context.

Professor Haris Meidanis   (Greece / EU): Attorney-at-law and international arbitrator and mediator, combining academic scholarship with extensive practical experience in cross-border commercial mediation and dispute system design in civil law jurisdictions. He is the author of *The Private International Law of Commercial Mediation* (2025), a leading and timely work analysing the conflict-of-laws, jurisdictional and enforcement issues surrounding international mediation, including the relationship between domestic legal frameworks and the Singapore Convention on Mediation, and the challenges and opportunities this raises for European civil law countries considering its implementation.

Ivana Ninčić Österle  (Austria / International): Executive Director of the International Mediation Institute (IMI), the global, independent foundation dedicated to advancing professional standards, transparency and trust in mediation worldwide. Working at the intersection of policy, practice and institutional governance, she collaborates closely with governments, international organisations and dispute resolution institutions. Her contribution will focus on the global uptake of mediation, the role of international standards, and how confidence in mediated settlement agreements is built across jurisdictions.

Me Mauro Poggia (Switzerland)  : Attorney-at-law and Member of the Swiss Federal Parliament (National Council). Former State Councillor of the Canton of Geneva, where he

played a central role in the development and adoption of Geneva's legislation on mediation. Author of a recent parliamentary interpellation on Switzerland's possible accession to the Singapore Convention on Mediation, which prompted the Federal Council to examine the issue and assess the interest of the Swiss economic and legal communities.

Moderators

Jeremy Lack (SCCM / FSM) 🌐 ⚖️ : Attorney-at-law and ADR neutral, accredited by SCCM and FSM, as well as SMC, SIMI and SIMC (Singapore). An IMI Certified Mediator, member of the IMI Independent Advisory Council, the Canton of Geneva Mediation Commission, and the Geneva Bar Association ADR Commission.

Birgit Sambeth (SCCM / FSM / FSA) 🌐 ⚖️ : Attorney-at-law and ADR neutral, Partner and Co-Head of Dispute Resolution at Altenburger Ltd legal + tax. An IMI Certified Mediator accredited by SCCM, FSM and the Swiss Bar Association (FSA). Former President of the FSA and member of the ICSID Panel of Conciliators.

👥 Expected participation

- Representative(s) of the Swiss business community, including multinational companies
- Members of the Swiss Parliament active in economic and business policy

💰 Participation fees

- CHF 55 – SCCM members
- CHF 75 – Members of BAVAAB, AKBS, ODAGE, OAV, ZAV, SAV/FSA, AFIM, IMI, FSM and other mediation associations
- CHF 95 – All other participants

All fees are exclusive of VAT.

🍷 Drinks and snacks (apéro) included.

The following organisations have been invited to cooperate in this event, and to inform their members of its occurrence: the bar associations of Bern (BAVAAB), Basel-Stadt (AKBS), Geneva (ODAGE), Vaud (OAV) and Zurich (ZAV), as well as the Swiss Bar Association (SAV/FSA), the International Mediation Association (IMI) and the Swiss Federation of Mediation (FSM). Members of these organisations will benefit from reduced participation fees. The event should qualify for three (3) hours of continuing professional development (to be confirmed).

📄 A short background note (including a possible draft law, for discussion purposes only) and additional reading materials summarising the key issues identified to date are [available here](#).

📄 Registration via [Eventbrite](#) (click [here](#))

Please feel free to contact jlack@lawtech.ch or admin@skwm.ch if you would like further information or wish to suggest topics for discussion or speakers (especially from the Swiss economic sector).

We very much hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a timely, substantive and constructive exchange.

Warm regards,

The Swiss Chamber of Commercial Mediation (SCCM)