

Annotation of the topic „Constitution of the Arbitral Tribunal“ Ms. **Anna Förstel-Cherng**:

Choosing the right arbitrator is essential for the efficiency of proceedings and the quality of the arbitral award. It is primarily up to the parties to decide on the number of arbitrators and the manner of their appointment. Absent a party agreement, under the Vienna Rules, the VIAC Board will determine whether a dispute is to be decided by a sole arbitrator or an arbitral tribunal. If parties fail to nominate an arbitrator, the appointment is made by the VIAC Board. When selecting arbitrators, the VIAC Board is guided by qualifications agreed by the parties and looks for arbitrators best suited for the specific dispute. In doing so, the VIAC Board considered factors such as the complexity of the case, the amount in dispute, and the parties' interest in an expeditious and cost-efficient decision. VIAC also takes into account gender and regional diversity.