

Proposed Zurich Conference 2023

JLJ met with James Peters and Julia Jung in Zurich on 19th November.

Julia explained that she was a lead member of the Swiss Chamber for Commercial Mediation. She is not technically the President but is currently leading that organisation. The organisation has about 250 mediator members, as opposed to the much larger Arbitration branch, which has about 2,000 members.

It was agreed in principle that IAM should approach the conference as a joint venture with the Swiss Chamber with any profits or losses being shared 50/50. However, understandably, Julia wanted to be able to put a cap on those potential losses and this is something we need to look at further.

James and Julia said that originally the split of profits and losses was agreed differently: It was initially proposed that the split would be done according to the number of participants each party will bring to the conference.

(Since the meeting on the 19th November, James and Julia have discussed the matter again and come up with the following idea:

The Swiss organization shall commit to:

- a. Participate in a split of the profits and losses up to an amount of \$20'000 (which means a max. of \$ 10'000 loss each) and
- b. Provide \$ 5'000 sponsoring

However, this is their suggestion and it needs to be discussed and confirmed by the board of the Swiss Chamber. A discussion/confirmation should take place prior to Mid-January latest.)

Julia thought that realistically there would be about 20 mediators from Switzerland (although hopefully this figure might be nearer 40) and I thought we might get about 70 from IAM. We should be looking at costings on that basis and in particular check the contract with the hotel for minimum numbers and cancellation dates etc.

We also discussed trying to make the topics for the conference as broad as possible so as to attract those from the arbitration community as well as mediators. The focus would remain on mediation but might include subjects such as Med-Arb, psychological aspects of dispute resolution, cross border disputes and the question of neutrality.