



The Top 10 Arguments in Favour of Swiss Arbitration

1. Switzerland offers a proven neutral and stable environment

Switzerland's longstanding neutrality in international conflicts and its economic and political stability have contributed greatly to making it an ideal and reliable venue for international dispute resolution. While economically partly linked to the European Union through several bilateral treaties, Switzerland is not a member of the European Union and, thus, not automatically subject to its laws. Switzerland's neutrality and stability makes it especially well-suited as an arbitral seat for long-term international contracts.

2. Switzerland is easily accessible

Switzerland is located at the centre of Europe and is well connected by air and rail. City centres are generally located within 20 minutes from major international airports. Swiss infrastructure is modern, attractive, and reliable.

3. Switzerland is internationally-oriented as are Swiss lawyers

As a small country historically dependent on international trade and cooperation, Switzerland's diplomacy, economy, and laws are uniquely tuned to the needs of international commerce. In the same vein, Switzerland offers a vast pool of lawyers who speak several languages and have studied or worked all over the world. Many hail from various foreign countries themselves.

4. Switzerland can draw on a large pool of experienced arbitration practitioners

Because of its important role as an arbitration venue, Switzerland has a large pool of arbitration practitioners who draw on extensive experience as counsel in arbitration. The international outlook of these practitioners, who are trained in Switzerland and abroad, and their familiarity with several languages is a strong plus in today's increasingly internationalized world.

In addition, Swiss arbitrators are a favourite national group of arbitrators for ICC arbitration. They are known for their efficient and even-handed management of the arbitral process and are comfortable with disputes stemming from all corners of the world, thanks to their exposure to different cultures and legal systems.

5. A Swiss arbitration hearing can be organized from your desk in a few clicks

The Swiss Arbitration Hub, an easy-to-use internet platform accessible from any online computer, facilitates the organization of all aspects of arbitration hearings in Switzerland, including the hearing facilities, hotel rooms, court reporting and translation services (see [Swiss Arbitration Hub](http://www.swissarbitrationhub.com), www.swissarbitrationhub.com).

6. Swiss arbitration law is modern, concise and flexible

In only 19 concise articles, Swiss law provides a simple but effective and flexible framework for international arbitration proceedings, benefiting from a long history of arbitration in Switzerland.

Combined with a very arbitration-friendly approach of the Swiss courts, it offers a legal environment that is perfectly suited for the efficient resolution of international disputes through arbitration (see [Swiss Arbitration Law is Modern and Flexible](#)).

7. The “Swiss style” of arbitration is (cost-) efficient and tailored to the parties' needs

Parties may expect a perfectly balanced procedure: there is sufficient and firm guidance from the arbitral tribunal, but no overbearing interference; document production is available where and to the extent necessary, but does not overburden the process; examination of witnesses and experts is part of the process, but not for weeks on end, and can be waived if the parties agree that it is superfluous. Swiss arbitrators are also uniquely experienced in facilitating settlements if the parties jointly agree to give this role to the arbitral tribunal. In short, the process is streamlined, user-friendly, and cost-effective, which is the reason why Swiss-style arbitration has built a reputation as an efficient and common-sense dispute resolution process.

8. Switzerland is one of the most popular arbitration venues in the world

Switzerland is consistently among the most-frequently chosen arbitration venues, competing only with France – where the ICC has its seat – for the title of most popular venue for ICC arbitration proceedings. Switzerland is also the main international venue for sports arbitration with several hundred sports cases being decided every year.

9. Setting aside proceedings only take 6 months, are cost-efficient and can be opted-out of altogether

Swiss international awards can be challenged only before the Swiss Supreme Court, and on very limited grounds. A final decision on a challenge can be expected within 6 months of the date of the award and at limited costs. Where none of the parties is Swiss-based, they can also exclude setting-aside proceedings altogether, on all or only certain grounds.

10. Swiss courts are very arbitration-friendly

Swiss courts consistently defer to arbitration. Challenges against arbitral awards are routinely dismissed, with fewer than 10 % of challenges being successful – in most instances where an annulment is necessary to ensure that procedural guarantees and due process are observed.

In sum, Switzerland offers a unique series of advantages

Switzerland's advantages explain why it is so popular as a venue, with about two thirds of all international cases in Switzerland involving only non-Swiss parties. These advantages are time-tested and reliable: A Swiss arbitration clause today guarantees a smooth dispute resolution procedure in the future.