

Steven Sprague

Mediator type – Commercial

Specialisms – Energy (power generation, transmission, distribution, supply, trading, research & development, and climate change certification) natural resources, infrastructure (plants, equipment, construction, maintenance and management, risk analysis), foreign investment (cross-border mergers and acquisitions, direct investment, joint ventures, stand-alone, internationalisation), mediation and dispute resolution.

Training body - Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales, admitted 1985. CEDR Accredited Mediator, accredited 2014

Professional and other qualifications - Avvocato, Ordine di Milano, Italy, admitted 2017

Details

Steven is an international business lawyer, principally advising in relation to general commercial and business issues.

With the benefit of more than 30 years experience practising law, negotiating agreements and resolving problems and disputes in several international jurisdictions (England and Wales, France, Italy, Russia and the former Soviet Union), he brings a wealth of experience to any transaction or mediation.

Steven is a CEDR accredited mediator and has assisted in a number of international mediations (involving parties from the UK, France, Spain and Italy and held under various mediation body rules including those of the ICC) as counsel to one of the parties. He has also co-mediated in the UK.

Clients

Energy – Steven's previous clients include multinational energy and energy industry companies, governments, and regulators as well as smaller suppliers and traders of coal, gas and electricity.

His experience comprises agreements between enterprises, agreements with some of the world's most prestigious academic research institutions and with governments and international organisations.

Infrastructure Steven's experience ranges through assisting world-class enterprises and regulatory authorities in connection with the infrastructure in various jurisdictions in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Foreign Investment - Steven acts for a mix of multinational groups and individual investors and promoters and has a particular interest in Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Recent Experience

- Advising an Italian energy company in relation the mediation of an energy generation and equipment supply dispute involving parties from different EU jurisdictions.
- Assisting an Italian design company in the mediation of a contractual dispute with one of its international clients.
- Co-mediating a construction contract related dispute in the UK.
- Assisting an Italian company in an employment related judicial mediation in England.
- Assisting an Italian maritime company in the mediation of a significant claim brought by a supplier.

- Assisting a French listed company in its divestment of a maritime satellite communications company;

- Assisting a French listed company in its acquisition of a speciality manufacturing company in Italy.
- Assisting a Swiss pharmaceutical group in its acquisition of a UK based producer.
- Assisting an Italian natural resources company in connection with various international projects including joint ventures in Spain, Turkey, Russia and China and the listing in China of one of its subsidiaries.
- Assisting a leading Italian electronics group to acquire a controlling interest in its UK subsidiary.
- Assisting an Italian company in its bid to acquire a Europe wide competitor group.
- Advising a listed Belgian company in the divestment of subsidiaries in a number of EU member states.
- Advising a French listed company in relation to the acquisition of a specialty manufacturing company in Italy.
- Advising a Slovak IT company in its acquisition of a UK based operator.
- Advising a major European insurance company in connection with international litigation in Italy and the UK.
- Assisting a major UK retail chain in connection with the pan European launch of a major retailer involving the opening of a significant number of retail outlets in a locations situated in various European territories and jurisdictions.
- Advising Italian retail clients in connection with the development of their business in the UK.
- Advising a number of European utilities in relation to the construction and operation of large scale and cogeneration power plant in the United Kingdom, Turkey, Uganda and Albania and in the sale, trading and supply of generated power (including derivative instruments and climate change certificates and CDM projects and sale and purchase of CER's) and carbon capture and storage schemes.
- Advising a number of European companies in connection with research and development agreements with enterprises, some of the world's most prestigious academic research institutions and with governments and international organisations.
- Advising in connection with the construction, maintenance and management of infrastructure in the Middle East.
- Advising the UK rail regulator and private companies in relation to the transportation of goods by rail in the UK and in connection with transiting the Channel Tunnel.

Languages

English, Italian, Spanish, French, Russian (limited)

Other

Steven is a board member and executive committee member of ASLA (Associazione dei Studi Legali Associati / the Association of Associated Law Firms) in Italy, an organization that represents the leading law firms operating on the Italian market.

Steven regularly undertakes teaching engagements on topics related to international contracts and business, legal regimes and international negotiation. He is frequently called to speak at conferences on aspects of international and UK business and legal issues.

He has taught in Europe and Africa and authored several publications on energy and natural resources law and on investment in Russia and the former Soviet Union.

Steven was a regular lecturer at the Moscow International Business School where he lectured on international oil and gas regimes.

Steven is a regular lecturer at the Sole 24 Ore Business School in Milan and lectures on international contracts and negotiation as part of the Business Schools Master programme and undertakes similar teaching engagements for various legal and business commercial professional training services providers.

Recent Publications

Steven is co-author of *“Common Law Contract Law: A practical guide for the civil law lawyer”* (Wolters Kluwer 2015 - ISBN: 978-88-217-5154-7, 978-88-217-5184-4).