

New Amendments for the Egyptian Center for Arbitration and Settlement of Non-banking Financial Disputes (ECAS)

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Introduction

On the 13th of October 2025, the Prime Minister issued Decree No. 3723 of the year 2025 (the “**Decree**”) setting forth amendments of the statute and the regulations of the Egyptian Center for Arbitration and Settlement of Non-banking Financial Disputes (“**ECAS**”).

The Decree was published in the Official Gazette and came into effect the following day of its publication (i.e. 14th of October 2025).

We shall delve into the key highlights of this Decree:

Expedited Arbitration

The Decree puts in place an expedited arbitration procedure which is naturally initiated by virtue of a notice of arbitration. The respondent has 10 days from the date of receipt of the notice of arbitration to submit its reply to the notice of arbitration.

The Decree further regulates the procedures for the joinder of additional parties to the arbitration. In terms of costs, unlike standard arbitration proceeding, the arbitrators’ fees for expedited arbitration are reduced by 10%.

Further, this Decree sets forth several procedures when arbitration is initiated, including the appointment of arbitrators by the parties or by the Center in case of their failure to appoint, the dismissal or replacement of the arbitrator upon a justified request by the parties concerned, the timeframe of procedural hearings, the submission of evidence, the hearings’ schedule (including the testimony of witnesses and experts), rendering of the final Award and the interpretation and correction of the Award.

Nonetheless, parties may mutually agree to suspend the expedited arbitration proceedings and proceed under a standard arbitration procedure.

The Expedited Arbitration Rules apply upon the agreement of the parties or if the dispute’s value does not exceed EGP 25 million (or its equivalent in case of a foreign currency). This value is calculated based on the amount of dispute outlined in the notice of arbitration. ECAS’s Board of Trustees may increase the aforementioned value with a maximum of 20% increase.

Electronic Arbitration

The Decree sets for the possibility for electronic arbitration. Unlike the abovementioned procedures for expedited arbitration, for electronic arbitration, the notice of arbitration and its response, all necessary documents and evidence would be submitted electronically through the Center’s platform.

Further, hearings may be held by virtue of a video conference that may be recorded and sent to the parties concerned.

However, the final rendered arbitral award must be signed by the arbitrators and delivered to the parties as a hard copy alongside an electronic copy sent through the Center’s platform.

The Electronic Arbitration rules apply when parties agree in writing to resolve the dispute through electronic arbitration conducted on the Center’s secure online platform. The dispute’s value must not exceed EGP 30 million, calculated based on the amount of dispute outlined in the notice of arbitration. ECAS’s Board of Trustees may increase the aforementioned value with a maximum of 20%.

The electronic arbitration proceedings shall not be halted if any of the parties increase the amount of dispute to exceed the aforementioned amount during the course of such proceedings, unless otherwise agreed by the parties to the dispute.

The Center, arbitrators and staff are not liable for any operational or procedural matters via the platform except in cases of gross negligence and willful misconduct.

Market reaction

[The Chairman of the Financial Regulatory Authority \("FRA"\)](#) has stated that this Decree aims to accelerate arbitration proceedings and resolve disputes digitally and securely. He confirms that the expedited resolution of disputes would help enhance confidence in conducting business in the non-banking financial markets. This expedited procedure is a key element in supporting efforts to stabilize and sustain the markets.

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