European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

UNIDROIT
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE UNIFICATION OF PRIVATE LAW
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL POUR L'UNIFICATION DU DROIT PRIVE

Facilitating economic growth and trade through equipment finance

International conference | A Focus on
the Mining, Agriculture and Construction (MAC) Protocol and Rail Protocol

In today's climate of economic uncertainty, businesses around the world face growing challenges in obtaining finance for major projects that support economic development, particularly in the mining, agriculture and construction (MAC) and rail sectors. One major constraint on access to credit for equipment used in these critical sectors is the absence of clear, balanced and harmonised legal rules.

The MAC and Rail Protocols to the Cape Town Convention (CTC) offer a powerful solution. These international treaties establish an international legal framework that enhances access to credit, facilitates trade, and enables businesses to acquire modern machinery, ultimately supporting inclusive and sustainable economic development.

Co-organised by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), this international conference for state delegates and officials will explore how the MAC and Rail Protocols operate in practice and how they contribute to credit expansion and international trade. The conference will also consider perspectives from the EBRD regions and beyond, as well as what countries can do to realise the benefits of the MAC and Rail Protocols. Eighty-five countries around the world, in addition to the European Union (EU), have already ratified the CTC and its Aircraft Protocol, including seventeen EBRD countries of operation.

Diplomatic representatives and government officials are warmly invited to attend the conference. The conference will be conducted in English in hybrid format. Attendance inperson is strongly encouraged. Coffee, tea and lunch will be provided for participants. A limited number of places will be reserved for private sector stakeholders, legal practitioners and academic experts.

When

5 September 2025
Friday

9:30 – 16:30
British Summer Time

Where

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Auditorium

Five Bank Street,
London E14 4BG,
United Kingdom

How to register

To register your participation, please complete this **registration form** **by 29 August 2025**.

Participants are also invited to the **Cape Town Convention Conference**, which will be held in **Cambridge** on **2 and 3 September 2025**.

For more information and registration, please see:

https://ctcap.org/event/14th-cape-town-convention-conference/

AM

9:30 -10:00 Registration, tea and coffee

10:00-10:20 Opening remarks and welcome

Alba Bozo, Deputy General Counsel, EBRD

Michel Nussbaumer, Director Legal Transition Programme, EBRD

Ignacio Tirado, Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

Aleksandr Kuzmenko, Secretary-General Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF)

10:20-10:40 | Keynote | A model of success

The role of the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol in the facilitation of access to credit supporting economic development

Ignacio Tirado, Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

10:45-11:35 | Panel 1

Expanding the Cape Town Convention to new sectors – the legal operation and economic benefits of the MAC and Rail Protocols

Catherine Bridge Zoller (Moderator), Senior Counsel, Legal Transition Programme, EBRD

Anna Veneziano, Deputy Secretary-General, UNIDROIT

Marek Dubovec, Director of Law Reform Programmes, International Law Institute

Kathy Hillman-Weir, Executive Vice-President, Chief Corporate Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Information Services Corporation (ISC)

Zsoka Koczan, Lead Economist, Transition Impact, Global Economics, EBRD

11:40-12:45 | Panel 2

Evaluating the Transactional Impact of the MAC and Rail Protocols in facilitating trade and investment

Milot Ahma (Moderator), Principal Counsel, Legal Transition Programme

Yuichiro Akita, President, Berne Union, Senior General Manager, Nippon Export and Investment Insurance

Anne Mazière, Managing Director, Aviation and Rail Finance Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank (CA-CIB)

IfeanyiChukwu Egbuniwe, Senior Counsel, Export-Import Bank of the United States

Markus Renfert, Senior Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, EBRD

Ekaterina Kushnareva, Office of the General Counsel, International Finance Corporation

PM

12:50-13:45 Lunch (provided)

13:45-14:35 | Panel 3

Fuelling economic development – regional perspectives on the MAC and Rail Protocols and relevance for EBRD Regions

Teresa Rodríguez-de-las-Heras Ballell (Moderator), Chair, Rail Protocol Supervisory Authority, Professor, University Carlos III of Madrid

Kier Fitch, Head of Unit, Rail Safety and Interoperability, European Commission Directorate General for Mobility and Transport

Iyare Otabor-Olubor, Senior Lecturer in Commercial Law, Aston University, United Kingdom

Megumi Hara, Professor, Chuo University, Japan

Liubov Skoryk, Associate Counsel, EBRD, Policy Perspectives: Potential Impact of the MAC and Rail Protocols for Ukraine

14:35-15:05 Coffee break

15:05-15:55 | Panel 4

Benefits of the MAC and Rail Protocols: a view from industry

Alex Russ (Moderator), Senior Advisor, Global Public Policy, Association of Equipment Manufacturers

Howard Rosen, Chair, Rail Working Group

Riccardo Viaggi, Secretary-General, European Construction Equipment Manufacturing Association

Louise Mor, Partner, Assets and Structured Finance Watson Farley and Williams law firm

15:55-16:10 | Into the future

Reflections on the Success of the Cape Town Convention

Sir Roy Goode, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Oxford and author of the Cape Town Convention Official Commentaries

16:15-16:30

Guidance for States in implementing the Rail and MAC Protocols

William Brydie-Watson, Senior Legal Officer, UNIDROIT

16:30 End of conference

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