



Melissa Balıkçı Sezen

Managing Associate

Department: Mergers and Acquisitions, Arbitration

Languages: Turkish, English, French

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Biography

Melissa Balıkçı is a Managing Associate in the Corporate and Dispute Resolution departments of Erdem & Erdem. She provides legal advice mainly on matters relating to corporate law, contract law and business law.

She advises clients on a range of corporate and commercial matters across a number of sectors and has particular expertise in domestic and cross-border mergers and acquisitions and share transfer transactions. Melissa regularly advises on EPC contracts, including FIDIC contracts and has experience in drafting various types of contracts.

Melissa also specializes in international commercial arbitration. She represents parties from diverse backgrounds as counsel in arbitration proceedings conducted under various institutional rules such as the ICC, LCIA, ISTAC, ITOTAM and UNCITRAL and acts as tribunal-secretary.

Practice Areas

- Arbitration
- International Commercial Transactions
- International Commercial Contracts
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Corporate Advisory

Industries

- Heavy Industry
- Energy
- Transportation and Logistics

- Mining
- Port
- Construction and Infrastructure

Representative Matters

Corporate Advisory

- Preparation of the due diligence report of a port-operator company, negotiation of the share purchase agreement, providing consultancy on the process
- Providing consultancy regarding the process of purchasing the shares of a company in the climatization sector based in the UK
- Providing consultancy regarding the process of purchasing the shares of a solar panel production company based in Hungary
- Preparation of the due diligence report of a mining company, preparation and negotiation of the share purchase agreement, providing consultancy on the process
- Advising on the establishment of a solar plant, preparation and negotiation of the EPC contract
- Advising on the establishment of a soda ash factory to be established in Kazakhstan and providing consultancy on the process, preparation and negotiation of the EPC contract
- Preparation of the due diligence report of a pipe manufacturing company
- Advising on the establishment of a urea plant, preparation and negotiation of the EPC contract
- Preparation of EPC contract to a leading port company related to expansion of a port
- Providing consultancy to the renewable energy company during the installation of wind projects
- Preparation of the construction contract within the scope of a port construction project and providing consultancy on the process
- Preparation of the construction contract within the scope of the Slab Stock Building construction project and providing consultancy regarding the process
- Preparation of all tender documents, including the road construction contract, within the scope of a road project
- Providing consultancy regarding the coal-fired power plant to be established in Turkey
- Negotiating service and maintenance contracts on wind projects to Turkey's leading energy company

- Preparation of the due diligence report of 4 different Turkish companies operating in the field of transportation and logistics, providing consultancy regarding the due diligence of foreign subsidiaries
- Review of a leading port company's contract and security package
- Acquisition of the shares of five companies in Turkey and Russia and its partner in joint-venture to a holding operating in the construction sector
- Preparation of the FIDIC Short Form Contract to an international bank and consultancy on the process
- Advising on a share and trademark pledge to a leading bank

Arbitration

- Representation of the respondents and counterclaimants in an arbitration proceeding arising out of an electricity sales agreement before ISTAC
- Providing consultancy regarding the lawsuit to be filed before ICSID, execution of third-party financing works
- Acting as the secretary of the arbitral tribunal in an arbitration case under the ITOTAM Arbitration rules related to the establishment of a hydroelectric power plant
- Representation of BMC Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş., the Respondent in an arbitration proceeding regarding breaches of contract for sale and know-how under the ICC Rules
- Representation of Enerjeo Kemaliye Enerji Üretim A.Ş., the Respondent in an arbitration proceeding regarding breaches of a contract for sales and maintenance under the ICC Rules
- Representation of the Respondent in an arbitration proceeding regarding breaches of an investment agreement between Ukrainian and Cypriot parties under the LCIA Rules
- Representation of the Mauritius Respondent in an arbitration proceeding regarding breaches of a deposit advance agreement under the LCIA Rules
- Representation of the Respondent against a world-wide freezing order before the English Courts
- Providing legal assistance to a Venezuelan company regarding jurisdictional challenges under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules

Education

- Queen Mary University of London, LLM in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution
- King's College London, Pre-Master's Programme Law Pathway
- Galatasaray University, Faculty of Law

Memberships

- SRA-regulated solicitor in England and Wales
- The Law Society
- Istanbul Bar Association
- ICC Young Arbitrators Forum
- Young International Arbitration Group
- Young ISTAC
- Istanbul Arbitration Association

Publications

- LCIA Challenge Decisions 2012-2017, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, March 2025
- ICC Dispute Resolution Statistics 2023, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, November 2024
- Trends in Mergers and Acquisitions in 2024, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, May 2024
- Prohibition of Payment in Foreign Currency in Lease Agreements, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, March 2023
- ICCA General Report on the Right to a Physical Hearing in International Arbitration, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, May 2022
- Landesbank Decision, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, January 2022
- Tahkimde Yargılama Giderleri ve Masrafları, Tahkim Yargılaması, Tahkim Okulu Paneller Serisi Cilt - 2, November 2021
- UNCITRAL Expedited Arbitration Rules, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, August 2021.
- 16th ICC Turkey Arbitration Day, ICC Dispute Resolution Bulletin 2021-2.
- IBA Rules on Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration 2020, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, March 2021.
- Enka v Chubb: Law Applicable to the Arbitration Agreement, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, December 2020.
- LCIA Rules 2020, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, August 2020.
- ICC Report on Emergency Arbitrator Proceedings, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, March 2020.
- Enforceability of Emergency Arbitrator Orders in Turkey and Take-Aways from the 15th ICC Turkey Arbitration Day, Kluwer Arbitration Blog, March 2020 (co-author)
- Employer's Remedies Under FIDIC Silver Book, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, October 2019.
- Singapore Convention on Mediation, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, July 2019.

- A Recent Decision from the High Court of England and Wales: Confidentiality v Public Interest, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, April 2019.
- ICC Updates Guidance Note to Parties and Arbitral Tribunals, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, January 2019.
- The Effect of the Turkish Language Requirement on the Validity of Arbitration Agreements, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, October 2018.
- 60 Years of the New York Convention, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, June 2018.
- Challenging Arbitrators and LCIA Challenge Decisions, Erdem & Erdem Newsletter, March 2018.