

SCHEDULE

ACAS ARBITRATION SCHEME

XVI.

QUESTIONS OF EC LAW AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 1998

Court determination of preliminary points

94.—(1) *Section 45 of the Arbitration Act 1996(1) shall apply to arbitrations conducted in accordance with the Scheme, subject to the following modifications.*

(2) *In subsection (1)—*

- (a) *for “Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the court” substitute “The High Court or Central London County Court”;*
- (b) *for “any question of law” substitute “any question (a) of EC law, or (b) concerning the application of the Human Rights Act 1998”;*
- (c) *omit “An agreement to dispense with reasons for the tribunal’s award shall be considered an agreement to exclude the court’s jurisdiction under this section.”.*

(3) *In subsection (2)(b) omit sub-paragraph (i).*

(4) *Omit subsection (4).*

(5) *After subsection (6), insert—*

“(7) In this section, “EC law” means—

(1) 1996 c. 23.

Section 45 of the Arbitration Act 1996 provides as follows

“45.—(1) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the court may on the application of a party to arbitral proceedings (upon notice to the other parties) determine any question of law arising in the course of the proceedings which the court is satisfied substantially affects the rights of one or more of the parties.

An agreement to dispense with reasons for the tribunal’s award shall be considered an agreement to exclude the court’s jurisdiction under this section.

(2) An application under this section shall not be considered unless—

- (a) it is made with the agreement of all the other parties to the proceedings, or
- (b) it is made with the permission of the tribunal and the court is satisfied—
 - (i) that the determination of the question is likely to produce substantial savings in costs, and
 - (ii) that the application was made without delay.

(3) The application shall identify the question of law to be determined and, unless made with the agreement of all the other parties to the proceedings, shall state the grounds on which it is said that the question should be decided by the court.

(4) Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the arbitral tribunal may continue the arbitral proceedings and make an award while an application to the court under this section is pending.

(5) Unless the court gives leave, no appeal lies from a decision of the court whether the conditions specified in subsection (2) are met.

(6) The decision of the court on the question of law shall be treated as a judgment of the court for the purposes of an appeal.

But no appeal lies without the leave of the court which shall not be given unless the court considers that the question is one of general importance, or is one which for some other special reason should be considered by the Court of Appeal.”

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- (a) **any enactment in the domestic legislation of England and Wales giving effect to rights, powers, liabilities, obligations and restrictions from time to time created or arising by or under the Community Treaties, and**
- (b) *any such rights, powers, liabilities, obligations and restrictions which are not given effect by any such enactment.”*