

# **Mediation Charter for Law Firms**

**The law firms who have signed the present charter recognize that:**

- ❖ **It is in their clients interest to prevent litigation and to solve their conflicts amicably rather than through litigation;**
- ❖ **There are techniques and methods making it possible to reach a settlement, even when negotiations break down and following the introduction of contentious legal procedure.**

**This is why they declare their intention to:**

- 1. inform their clients of the existence of these methods and their adherence to this charter;**
- 2. study if the use of an amicable dispute resolution procedure is possible and appropriate, when their clients find themselves in a pre-litigation situation or are involved in a lawsuit in front of the courts or an arbitration.**
- 3. if the result of this study is positive, propose the use of an amicable dispute resolution procedure to the other parties and, if necessary, to provide them with all useful information in this respect.**
- 4. re-examine the possibility of using an amicable dispute resolution procedure, even when it has not been possible to avoid the introduction of contentious proceedings.**
- 5. include in the contracts that they are drafting an appropriate amicable dispute resolution clause, each time this is possible and desirable.**
- 6. organize the necessary training within their law firms in order for the lawyers, who are likely to be involved in situations of conflict, to have knowledge of these alternative procedures in the management of such conflicts, in order to serve their clients' best interest.**
- 7. participate in meetings with other law firms having signed this charter and with companies having signed the "Inter-Enterprise Charter for Mediation in Commercial Disputes" prepared by CMAP (Centre for Mediation and Arbitration in Paris), in order to share their experiences as regards the use of amicable dispute resolutions procedures.**

**Prepared by:**

**Jean-Yves Mercier  
President of the Association of  
Corporate Lawyers.**

**Thierry Garby  
President of the Mediation  
Academy**

**Signed on October 16, 2006**

**By: LexEurope law firm in Paris**