

Speech delivered at the  
Centro Internacional de Arbitraje,  
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Instituto Universitario de Estudios  
Europeos  
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Members of the Faculty, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
It is a privilege for me to be with you today. As a fellow  
Dutchman, I am honored to have been asked to give the  
lecture that bears the name of Hugo Grotius, my esteemed  
compatriot.

My topic for this evening is the settlement of disputes in  
an interconnected world. Yet I wish to approach this timely  
subject not simply from the perspective of the Permanent  
Court of Arbitration –an institution engaged in the  
settlement of international disputes on a daily basis– but  
also with reference to Grotius and the context in which he  
lived and worked.