

[Document 3]

Agreement on the Preparation
of Civil Proceedings before the First Division of the
Tribunal de Grande Instance [District Court] of Meaux

AMENDMENT

Further to the agreement concluded on December 18, 1996 between:

- the *Tribunal de Grande Instance* [District Court] of Meaux, represented by the President of the Court, and
- the Bar of Meaux, represented by the President of the Bar, Mr. Noret.

The Magistrates and the Bar, upon completion of a meeting on February 6, 1998 specifically to assess the procedural arrangements, have agreed to amend the established procedures as follows:

I. Enrollment period:

This period shall be reduced from three months to two months on an experimental basis; this situation may be revised if the new period proves insufficient owing to late filing of preparatory materials.

II. Short track procedures:

Although it has proved possible to abide by the timeframe established for the defendant's first submissions, it appears necessary:

- to extend the period for the plaintiff's reply, which shall be increased from one to two months;
- not to recall cases for closure until after the completion of a final one-month period, which has not been the case thus far.

Therefore, the plan for the short track procedures shall henceforth be as follows:

ENROLLMENT

↓ 2 months

FIRST CALLING

↓ 3 months

DEFENDANT SUBMISSIONS

↓ 2 months

PLAINTIFF SUBMISSIONS

↓ 1 month

RECALLING FOR TRIAL PREPARATION

- Closure order
- Scheduling of pleadings

It should be noted that these proceedings, which had remained within the President's Conference, shall now be handled as part of trial preparation per se, to facilitate access to the judge responsible for trial preparation to resolve issues as they arise.

Meaux, February 6, 1998

President of the Bar
of Meaux

President of the Court

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Further to the amendment signed on February 6, 1998.

The Magistrates and the Bar, upon completion of the meetings held on January 20 and March 9, 2000, have agreed to amend the established procedures as follows, to take into account the increased role of the Judge responsible for trial preparation in monitoring the processing of cases, in accordance with the decree of December 28, 1998.

Henceforth, the procedural arrangements shall be as follows:

A distinction shall be made as to a number of potential situations at the first calling of cases before the conference (which shall always take place within a two-month period after placement on the court rolls).

1. If the defendant(s) has/have not provided preliminary preparatory documentation:

Closure and scheduling of pleadings, unless a specific request is made related to the nature of the case (publication of a summons for a petition for resolution in the sale of real property, for example, or production of a document required for resolution of the case).