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# About CEDR

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## Press releases

11 Jun 2010

### First honour given for 'services to mediation'

The Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution is pleased to confirm that its Chief Executive, Karl Mackie, who has been with the organisation since its foundation in 1990, has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Dr Mackie is awarded the CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) for 'services to mediation', the first time this reason for an award has been cited, recognising his tireless work.

As CEDR's Chief Executive Dr Mackie has been instrumental in developing the style of neutral but robust commercial mediation, expounded in CEDR's Mediation Training Skills, now widely acknowledged as the leading mediator accreditation globally. Heading CEDR's campaign for Alternative Dispute Resolution and working closely with governments, courts and lawyers in the UK and in Europe, he has successfully encouraged the view of mediation as an effective and mainstream method for dispute resolution. Under Karl's direction CEDR has dealt with over 20,000 dispute referrals and trained over 3000 mediators in the UK and over 2000 overseas. CEDR calculates that in the UK alone commercial mediation currently saves the economy over £1.4 billion a year.

Speaking on the announcement CEDR's Chairman, Sir Peter Middleton, said, *"This is an outstanding recognition for the achievements of CEDR in the last 20 years and for Karl personally. On behalf of CEDR and everyone connected with the organisation I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations."*

Dr Mackie has been CEDR's first and only Chief Executive since the organisation was founded with the support of the CBI in 1990. He is acknowledged as one of the world's leading practitioners and experts in mediation and has been engaged in mediating high-level disputes since 1980.

In the past year alone the cases he has mediated include a dispute over the European City of Culture, conflict with over 100 homeowners in a 'new town', a Trade Union pay dispute, high value NHS purchasing dispute, the first ever international mediation with Romania, the sacking of the boss of a major high street name and other commercial conflicts worth billions of pounds. Dr Mackie is also appointed by other dispute resolution bodies in the UK and Internationally, such as ACAS, where he has been an arbitrator for 30 years.

Dr Mackie has worked with numerous international governments and professional bodies at CEDR, such as the United Nations, the European Commission, World Bank and International Finance Corporation, UNCITRAL, and many companies and government departments. Most recently he personally consulted with the Federal Government of India on how to establish its own International Mediation Centre.

A barrister and psychologist by training, Dr Mackie has been a leading academic and a partner in a business strategy consultancy before helping found CEDR. Karl has been awarded Honorary Professorships from Universities and has written numerous books and articles on mediation and legal skills. Regularly described as the "mediation guru" in publications ranging from *The Times* to *The Lawyer*, he is frequently referred to as one of the most influential negotiators in the UK. He has also been prosaically described as "the thinking lawyer's Sean Connery".

#### Notes to Editors:

CEDR (the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution) is the leader in the development of neutral-assisted dispute resolution. It is a non-profit organisation and its mission is to encourage and develop cost effective dispute prevention and dispute resolution in commercial and public sector disputes and in civil litigation. CEDR operates in the UK and internationally and has been instrumental in helping to bring mediation into the heart of business practice and into the judicial system. CEDR Mediator Accreditation is recognised as an international standard.

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### News >

21 Jul 2010

[Mediation in Planning' can go further](#)

9 Jul 2010

[New look for the CEDR website](#)

24 Jun 2010

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12 Jun 2010

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### Calendar >

[Mediation in the UK today, with Sir Henry Brooke - A CEDR Young Professionals Chapter event](#) - 28 July 2010

[Mediator Skills Training - Summer School](#) - 22 August 2010

[Starting from scratch with workplace and employment mediation](#) - 9 September 2010

[CEDR Certificate in Advanced Negotiation - Autumn 2010](#) - 9 September 2010