

Message from the Secretariat of the International Association of Prosecutors on the Election of the ICC Deputy Prosecutor for Investigations

It was with great pleasure that the Secretariat of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) read about the appointment of Serge Brammertz as the new Deputy Prosecutor for Investigations at the ICC. We know him as an active and supportive member of the Association in which, as a German-speaking Belgian, he has pursued with other colleagues the IAP's efforts to widen its appeal in francophone countries.

This is a wholly appropriate appointment of a man whose outlook is consistently international. An immediate sign is his language facility but his whole career signals his commitment to international and transnational co-operation in dealing with the problems posed by crime in the modern era. Indeed, for his doctorate in law at the Albert Ludwigs Universität in Freiburg, Germany, he chose as the subject of his thesis "Cross-border Police Cooperation". In addition to the domestic work which he has undertaken, leading to his rapid promotion to the post of Federal Prosecutor of Belgium, he has been recognized as an international expert by the Council of Europe, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and others. His academic credentials are demonstrated by his appointment as a professor at the University of Liège, where he leads a course on police and judicial cooperation in an international context.

Mr. Brammertz has published widely - on the fight against illegal drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, the use of force and firearms by police officers, international criminal law, cross-border pursuit, cross-border police cooperation, liaison officers, Eurojust and international judicial cooperation. These are, of course, studies which will serve him well in dealing with the challenges presented by his future investigations on behalf of the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP).

Busy people lead busy lives and, in addition to his work as a prosecutor and an academic, Serge Brammertz finds time to serve as Chairman of the Administrative Unit for Coordination of the Fight Against Harmful Sectarian Organizations, a member of the Management Committee of the Belgian Section of the International Association of Judges and Chairman of the European Judicial Network (Belgian Presidency of the European Union – 2001).

The IAP met Mr. Brammertz most recently at its 8th Annual conference in Washington, D.C. There, in addition to his participation in a range of conference sessions and workshops, he delivered an astute comparative critique of mutual legal assistance procedures in concert with Annabelle Bolt of the United Kingdom's Customs and Excise. The IAP in turn has been active in its assistance to the Office of the Prosecutor, in collaborating with the NGO Coalition for the ICC on the drafting of a code of conduct for the OTP. It was, therefore, a happy coincidence that it was during the IAP conference that it was announced that Serge Brammertz had been short-listed for the post of Deputy Prosecutor. His personal delight was evident, something which was good to see in a cynical age.

We wish him and his colleagues every success in the important and ground-breaking work which they will now undertake on behalf of the international community.