

International Monitoring Operations – Appointed long-term observers

Mr Theo Jacobs recently completed his tenure as the director of the Central Office for Seizure and Confiscation and is currently working as a prosecutor at the Court of Appeal of Brussels. Mr Jacobs has been a member of his national judiciary since 1982, where he has worked in various roles, including as a Prosecutor at the District Court of Leuven, Vice-Director of the Cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General at the Court of Appeal of Brussels. He has been involved in a number of international activities and cooperation initiatives in third countries, including by contributing to EU initiatives as Head of the Rule of Law section in the EUPOLCOPPS mission in the occupied Palestinian territories, Chief Prosecutor in the EULEX mission in Kosovo and as Member of the Justice Team of the European Planning Team for Kosovo. Mr Jacobs holds a Master's degree in Law from the Free University of Brussels.

Mr Ferdinando Buatier de Mongeot is currently a criminal judge for preliminary investigations in the Court of Como in Italy. Mr Buatier de Mongeot has been a member of his national judiciary since 1999, where he has served in various posts as a judge, most recently in the Courts of Aosta and Como. Mr Buatier de Mongeot is also qualified as an attorney at law. Mr Buatier de Mongeot has been involved in number of international activities and cooperation initiatives in third countries, including by contributing to EU initiatives as an international judge at District Court Level for EULEX Kosovo and as a Resident Twinning Adviser in the framework of an EU CARDS Project aimed at fighting organized crime and corruption within the State Prosecutor's Office in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Mr Buatier de Mongeot holds a degree in law from the University of Genova.

Ms Elka Ermenkova is an international judge in the Supreme Court of Kosovo since January 2012, where she is deciding on appeals and extraordinary legal remedies on high profile criminal cases (corruption, organized crime and war crimes). In 2012-2013 she was also engaged with war related property disputes, arising from the Kosovo conflict from 1998-1999. She is a member of the Human Rights Review Panel of the EU Rule of Law Mission EULEX in Kosovo. The Panel is an accountability mechanism for alleged human rights violations, committed by mission members in execution of their executive mandate. Ms Ermenkova has been a national judge in Bulgaria, since 1998, where she used to work in various positions, such as a junior judge, a first instance regional judge, a President of a first instance court and a district (appellate) judge. Between 2008 and 2011 as a Rule of Law expert she was engaged with the conduct of the civilian crisis management operations of the EU in different geographical areas: BiH, the Palestinian territories, Kosovo, Congo Kinshasa, Guinea Bissau. In the past she was also involved in election observation missions of the EU in Mozambique and Guinea Conakry. Ms Ermenkova holds a master Degree in Court Administration from Denver University in Denver, Colorado, USA and Master Degree in Law from the South Western University Neophit Rilski in Bulgaria. [Deployment at later stage, pending completion of current assignments]

Mr Branko Hrvatin has just completed his twelve-year term as the President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia. After graduation from the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb, he worked as a Municipal Court Judge and County Court Judge in Zagreb. In 2004 he was appointed the Supreme Court Justice. In 2005 he was appointed President of the Supreme Court and reappointed to that post in 2009 and 2013. From 2001 to 2004 he was a member and the Vice-President of the State Judicial Council. Since 2005 he has been the President of the State Election Commission. He is a lecturer and a moderator at various local and international seminars, workshops and symposia. Since 1994 he conducts practical courses for students at the Faculty of Law in Zagreb within the Chair for Civil Substantive Law, Civil Procedure Law and Family Law. Mr Hrvatin is an author of articles in the area of civil procedure, execution and property law. In June 2014 he was elected the Vice-President of the Network of Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union.

Mr Hans Kijlstra is a judge at the district court of Amsterdam since 2002. Before joining the judiciary he worked as a legal officer and manager for the administration. Until 2011 he was an administrative judge and a managing judge. Since 2011 Hans Kijlstra works as a criminal judge. He set up and chaired the specialized chamber for human trafficking for 3 years. He is currently chairman of the chamber for extraditions and European Arrest Warrants. The chamber has exclusive competence for European Arrest Warrants and decides as a last instance court. Mr Kijlstra is also an advisor to a European research project on surrender and judgements in absentia in which six member-states of the EU participate.

Mr John S. Leonardo was nominated in 2012 by the President and confirmed by the Senate to serve as the United States Attorney for Arizona. He served as the top federal prosecutor for that state until January 2017. Before being confirmed as the United States Attorney, Leonardo served as a Superior Court Judge for Pima County, Arizona from 1993 until 2012. Before becoming a judge, Leonardo was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Indiana from 1973 to 1982 and for the District of Arizona from 1982 to 1993. Leonardo was also an assistant state's attorney for Prince George's County, Md. Leonardo graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1969 and from the George Washington University Law School in 1972.

Ms Mia Roessingh-Bakels started her career in 1978 as associate to an international law firm in Rotterdam, after completing her law studies at Leyden University and working as trainee in a publishing firm in Oxford, UK. She started her work in the Dutch judiciary in 1982 as an associate to the scientific bureau of the Supreme Court of The Netherlands. She joined the Prosecution offices in 1986 and worked for sixteen years as a Public Prosecutor in first instance and the last two years as Advocate General to the Court of Appeal. Since 2002 she is a judge in the criminal section of the Court of Appeal in Arnhem. Since 2002 she is spokesperson for her Court and was for five years chairman of the Dutch Assembly of press judges. She is an expert on matters relating to the judiciary and the media. In that quality she worked for 2.5 years as key expert in an EU Twinning project in Turkey concerning the relations between the judiciary and the mass media. This lasted until

November 2015. Over the years she lectured regularly on that same subject, not only (for colleagues and international students) in The Netherlands but also in Russia and Poland.

Ms Marie Tuma is currently working as a criminal judge within the EULEX Rule of Law mission in Kosovo, where she is presiding in high level cases. Prior to this posting, she was the Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Sweden, where she managed the international human rights organization with field offices around the world. One of the major achievements of that organization was to educate judges, prosecutors, and other law officials in developing countries on a global scale, and during her director post at RWI, Ms Tuma managed and executed international justice mission-programs in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and in Europe to ensure the proper international legal standards in these regions' judiciary. At the Court of Bosnia-and-Hercegovina, she was an international war crimes appeal judge, seconded by Sweden, contributing to the establishment of a sustainable justice system in BiH. She worked as a prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Hague, in political high level and high sensitive cases. Throughout her international career, spanning over 17 years, Ms Tuma has been, and still is, a teacher and mentor in EU-law at Lund University as well as in criminal-law at various universities in Beijing, Los Angeles and New York. Ms Tuma has been a Swedish judiciary since 1982 and holds a master of law degree from Lund University, Sweden. [Deployment at later stage, pending completion of current assignments]