



MEETINGS OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL – SANTIAGO DE CHILE (CHILE)

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (10.00 – 13.30)

Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (08.00 – 11.00)

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (09.00 – 13.00)

**Session of November 13, 2017**

Present:

- the President, Mr. Christophe Régnard;
- the First Vice-President, Mr. Gaetano Pagone;
- the Vice-Presidents Mr. Rafael De Menezes, Mr. José Manuel Igreja Matos, Mr. Cagney Musi, Mr. Đuro Sessa and Mr. Mikael Sjoberg;
- the Honorary Presidents Mrs. Cristina Crespo, Mr. Sidnei Beneti, Mrs. Maja Tratnik, Mr. Gerhard Reissner and Mr. Günter Woratsch;
- the Secretary-General, Mr. Giacomo Oberto;
- the Deputy Secretaries-General, Mr. Lucio Aschettino, Mr. Galileo D'Agostino and Mr. Raffaele Gargiulo;
- the IAJ representatives at the UN seats in New York and Geneva, Mrs. Louise Mailhot and Mr. Pierre Zappelli;
- the delegates of the following national associations (enclosure n. 1):

ALGERIA	LITHUANIA
ARGENTINA	LUXEMBURG
AUSTRALIA	MALI (PROXY TO SENEGAL)
AUSTRIA	MAURITANIA (PROXY TO ALGERIA)
BELGIUM	MOLDOVA
BRAZIL	MONGOLIA (PROXY TO TAIWAN)
BULGARIA	MONTENEGRO (PROXY TO CROATIA)
CANADA	MOROCCO
CHILE	MOZAMBIQUE
COLOMBIA	(THE) NETHERLANDS
COSTA RICA	NICARAGUA
CROATIA	NORWAY
CYPRUS	PANAMA
CZECH REPUBLIC (PROXY TO AUSTRIA)	PARAGUAY
DENMARK	PERU
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	PORTUGAL
ESTONIA	PUERTO RICO
FINLAND	REPUBLIC OF CHINA - TAIWAN
FRANCE	SENEGAL
GERMANY	SERBIA (PROXY TO PORTUGAL)
GREECE	SLOVAKIA (PROXY TO HUNGARY)
GUINEA BISSAU (OBSERVER)	SLOVENIA
HUNGARY	SOUTH AFRICA
ICELAND	SPAIN
IRELAND	SWEDEN

ISRAEL	SWITZERLAND
ITALY	TUNISIA
KAZAKHSTAN	UKRAINE
LIBERIA (OBSERVER)	UNITED KINGDOM
LIECHTENSTEIN	URUGUAY
	USA

In attendance were also the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of Judges and Lawyers, Mr. Diego Garcia Sayan and representatives of the following organizations:

- Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association, Mr. John Lowndes, President;
- Federación Latino-Americana de Magistrados, Mr. Oswaldo Ordonez, President;
- International Union of Portuguese Speaking Judges, Ms. Flavia Viana, President;
- International Association of Prosecutors, Mr. Han Moraal, Secretary General,
- International Bar Association, Ms. Veronica Hinestroza, Senior Programme Lawyer at the IBA's Human Rights Institute;
- Asociación de Mujeres Jueces de Argentina, Mr. Fabian Cardoso, on behalf of the President;
- International Commission of Jurists, Mr. Salinas Rivera, Commissioner.

President Régnard opened the meeting of the Central Council at 11.00, by welcoming all present.

### **1. Checking the votes and proxies;**

The Secretary-General carried out a check on votes and proxies: 59 members were present (in attendance or by proxy). The seven proxies were the following:

- from the association of Czech Republic to the association of Austria;
- from the association of Mali to the Association of Senegal;
- from the association of Mauritania to the association of Algeria;
- from the association of Mongolia to the association of Taiwan;
- from the association of Montenegro to the association of Croatia;
- from the association of Serbia to the association of Portugal; and
- from the association of Slovakia to the association of Hungary.

### **2. Appointment of auditors to examine the accounts and the financial report and to report;**

Upon proposal of the President, the assembly unanimously appointed Mr. Walter Barone (Brazil) and Mrs. Rossana Giannaccari (Italy) as auditors responsible for scrutinising the annual accounts and financial report and for reporting on it to the Central Council.

### **3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held in Mexico City;**

President Régnard pointed out that the national associations received the minutes of the CC meeting in Mexico on 13 March 2017 and that they made no remarks within one month. The assembly submitted no objections; therefore the President stated the minutes of the meeting held in Mexico City as unanimously approved.

### **4. Possible discussion on:**

#### **4.1. written report of the President of the I.A.J.;**

#### **4.2. written report of the Secretary-General;**

#### **4.3. written reports of the Vice-Presidents responsible of the Regional Groups and their reports on the Regional Groups meetings in Santiago de Chile;**

President Régnard referred to his written report and thanked Secretary-General Oberto for the translation into English.

He underlined, in particular, the relevance of the Vaclav Haval Prize which, upon proposal and engagement of the IAJ, was delivered to Mr. Murat Arslan, President of the Turkish Association of Judges "Yarsav", imprisoned after the failed coup d'état in Turkey. President Régnard informed the Assembly that one of the grounds of accusation against Mr. Arslan was that he

participated to the IAJ activities and that the IAJ is suspected by Turkish authorities to be a terrorist organization.

President Régnard then mentioned the relationships established with other international associations, such as FLAM, International Bar Association, International Union of Lawyers, among others. He participated in the annual meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors, whose next year's meeting in Durban will focus on the independence of public prosecutors.

Secretary-General Oberto referred to his written report, underlining the constant presence of the Secretariat by the President and the Presidency Committee and the Regional Groups. He informed the assembly about the structure of the IAJ website and about the IAJ account twitter.

President Régnard thanked Mr. Oberto and all the General Secretariat for the quality and intensity of their work.

First Vice-President Pagone referred to his written report, underlining the particular nature of the ANAO Group, which encompasses countries across two oceans. The Group lost contacts with one of its members, Iraq, while the relationships between the remaining members remain fruitful. The Association of Japan is not attending the IAJ meeting in the last years, but it pays regularly its annual contribution and participates with its reports to the works of the Study Commissions. The ANAO Group was involved also in the works of the IAJ, such as the updating of the Universal Charter of the Judge. The Group published a book dealing with its history, whose editor was Mrs. Louise Mailhot. This year, two rapporteurs from the ANAO Group managed the applications for membership in the IAJ of two out of three interested associations: Mr. Carter for Liberia and Ms. Beazley for East Timor.

Vice-President Igreja Matos referred to his written report and underlined the difficult situation in Europe. Besides the case of Turkey, to which a specific point in the agenda is devoted, there are the cases of Bulgaria and Poland and, in several other countries, the threat represented by the raising of populisms. Contact with the various bodies of the Council of Europe are constant and Vice-President Sessa is the new President of the CCJE.

Vice-President De Menezes referred to his written report, highlighting in particular some aspects. In February, the Association of Peru organized a conference about the rule of law and the fight against corruption, supported and partly financed by IBA Group.

In November, he took part to an international meeting about refugees and large migrant's movements, organized by the International Commission of Jurists.

He also attended, in May, together with Honorary President Cristina Crespo, an environmental conference in Goias, Brazil, hosted by the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment.

The IBA Group is evaluating the setting up of an instrument for financial aid to Latin-American judges, similar to that established by the European Association of Judges.

Vice-President Musi referred to his written report and emphasized the outcomes of the African Group Meeting in Maputo, which discussed various topics. Mr. Musi attended a preparatory meeting of the Judicial Integrity Network, which resolved that all countries should adopt codes of conduct for judicial officers based formerly on the Bangalore principles and the Commonwealth Latimer House Guidelines. The global network will be launched in April 2018.

The Congolese Association informed the Group about the decision of the Government to prohibit judges to be members of associations.

Finally, the African Group endorsed the application for membership of Liberia and Guinea Bissau.

## **5. Information on the situation in Turkey**

### **5.1 Vaclav Havel prize**

### **5.2 Annual contribution to the IAJ of YARSAV;**

President Régnard explained that the IAJ and the EAJ decided to nominate Murat ARSLAN, President of YARSAV, to Vaclav Havel Prize, a prize awarded by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) to reward outstanding actions of the association in the defence of human rights in Europe.

The application file, prepared by Vice-President Igreja Matos, in collaboration with the Secretariat-General, was co-signed by the IAJ, the EAJ and 14 national associations and sent to the PACE at the beginning of April 2017. As recommended by PACE, the General Secretariat did not publish any information concerning the application on the IAJ website.

Pre-selected among the three finalists in August 2017, Murat Arslan was finally selected as the winner of this prize on 9 October 2017. On 11 October 2017, President Régnaud went to Prague for a conference organized in his honour. On that occasion, the Director of the Foundation Vaclav Havel told him that Turkish authorities were making great pressures to make it clear that they considered Mr. Arslan a criminal and a terrorist. Nevertheless, there is the possibility that Mr. Arslan might be candidate for the Peace Nobel Prize.

As to the annual contributions due by YARSAV, a Presidential Decree in 2016 dissolved the association. The decision is not definitive because there are pleas pending against it and there is the possibility to file a petition at the European Court for Human Rights. Nevertheless, it is clear that YARSAV cannot pay its contributions and, therefore, risks losing its membership. The issue is important also because a new association of judges was created in Turkey, which is very close to the Government and willing to adhere to the IAJ. At present, the existence of YARSAV among the IAJ members represents an obstacle to apply for membership.

The Presidency Committee proposed the Central Council to annul the arrears of YARSAV for 2016 and 2017. The Central Council unanimously approved the proposal of the Presidency Committee.

## **9. Universal Charter of the Judge:**

### **9.1 Vote of the Central Council**

President Régnaud proposed to split the item n. 9 in two days. Today the Assembly will discuss the text and tomorrow, Thursday 14 November, the official ceremony of signature will take place.

He then summarized the history of the Charter and the works done for its updating. He then asked whether there was any proposal for modification and received a negative answer. President Régnaud then called an open vote on the text and the Central Council unanimously approved the text of the new Universal Charter of the Judge.

## **6. Associations which have not paid their contributions for several years;**

Mr. Oberto informed the Assembly that the national association of Cameroon did not pay its annual contributions for more than 4 years.

President Régnaud recalled the rule under article 5.2 of the Constitution - according to which "If the payment of a member's subscription is in arrears of over three years, that member shall cease to belong to the Association unless the Central Council decides to the contrary" - and he asked whether there was any request not to apply that rule.

Having received no requests not to apply the above-mentioned statutory rule, he proclaimed that the Association of Cameroon ceased to be a member of the IAJ.

## **7. Applications for membership: East Timor, Guinea Bissau and Liberia;**

President Régnaud invited the delegate of Liberia to quit the hall and then gave the floor to the rapporteur, Mr. David Carter, who summarized the content of the report (distributed to the IAJ members on June 27, 2017), concluding with the recommendation to admit the association.

President Régnaud opened the vote: there were no abstentions nor contrary votes and the Central Council unanimously admitted the Association of Judges of Liberia as an IAJ member.

The delegate of Liberia joined again the meeting and he delivered a speech, thanking the Central Council.

President Régnaud then invited the delegates of Guinea Bissau to quit the hall and then gave the floor to the rapporteur, Ms. Flavia Viana, who summarized the content of the report (distributed to the IAJ members on June 27, 2017), concluding with the recommendation to admit the association.

President Régnard opened the vote: there were no abstentions nor contrary votes and the Central Council unanimously admitted the Association of Judges of Guinea Bissau as an IAJ member. The delegates of Guinea Bissau joined again the meeting and they delivered a speech, thanking the Central Council.

President Régnard then announced that the delegates of East Timor were not present and then gave the floor to the rapporteur, Ms. Margareth Beazley, who summarized the content of the report (distributed to the IAJ members on June 27, 2017), concluding with the recommendation to admit the association.

President Régnard opened the vote: there were no abstentions nor contrary votes and the Central Council unanimously admitted the Association of Judges of East Timor as an IAJ member.

First Vice-President Tony Pagone read a message of thanks sent by the President of the Association of East Timor.

#### **8. Vote on the proposed amendment of the Statute, ex art. 8, par. 4;**

President Régnard recalled that the proposed amendment was submitted to national associations on 24 July 2017. He explained that it was necessary because of the rules of the Italian banks, which want the President of the IAJ to sign any relevant document in presence, in Italy. This made quite difficult the opening of the new bank account devoted to the Provident Fund and might prove quite annoying in the future, when the IAJ Presidents will not come from European countries.

President Régnard called for an open vote. There were no contrary vote nor abstention and the Central Council unanimously approved the amendment.

Vice-President Igreja Matos took the floor to explain that the European Association of Judges established a formal, strict, procedure to identify families in need for support. Up to now, people in need received about 40.000 Euro in total and Mr. Igreja Matos thanked Mr. Thomas Stadelmann for the extraordinary work done in dealing with the requests.

President Régnard joined Mr. Igreja Matos in thanking the Fund Committee and Mr. Stadelmann for the work done.

#### **10. Priorities for the work of the Presidency Committee and I.A.J. for the triennium 2018-2020;**

President Régnard recalled the decision to set priorities for the work of the Presidency Committee and the arguments dealt with in the triennium 2015-2017: fight against corruption, the revision of the Universal Charter of the Judges and the enlargement of the IAJ.

For the incoming triennium, 2018-2020, the Presidency Committee decided to continue working on the issue of corruption within the judiciary. Vice-President Igreja Matos will remain coordinator of the project. As second item, it decided to focus on judicial education, with particular attention to the issue of independence. Under the same item, the Presidency Committee will continue its activities concerning Environmental Law. Honorary President Crespo and Vice-President De Menezes will deal with this topic. The third item will be the promotion of the establishment of associations of judges in countries where there are not. Vice-President Sjoberg will chair the working group charged to draft guidelines and a model statute.

The Central Council unanimously approved the triennial program for 2018-2020.

The President closed the session at 13.15.

#### **Session of 14 November 2017**

The session started at 9.20.

Present:

- the President, Mr. Christophe Régnard;
- the First Vice-President, Mr. Gaetano Pagone;

- the Vice-Presidents Mr. Rafael De Menezes, Mr. José Manuel Igreja Matos, Mr. Cagney Musi, Mr. Duro Sessa and Mr. Mikael Sjoberg;
- the Honorary Presidents Mrs. Cristina Crespo, Mr. Sidnei Beneti, Mr. Gerhard Reissner, Mrs. Maja Tratnik and Mr. Günter Woratsch;
- the Secretary-General, Mr. Giacomo Oberto;
- the Deputy Secretaries-General, Mr. Lucio Aschettino, Mr. Galileo D'Agostino and Mr. Raffaele Gargiulo Aschettino;
- the IAJ representatives at the UN seats in New York and Geneva, Mrs. Louise Mailhot and Mr. Pierre Zappelli;
- the delegates of the following national associations (enclosure n. 2):

ALGERIA	LITHUANIA
ARGENTINA	LUXEMBURG
AUSTRALIA	MALI (PROXY TO SENEGAL)
AUSTRIA	MAURITANIA (PROXY TO ALGERIA)
BELGIUM	MOLDOVA
BRAZIL	MONGOLIA (PROXY TO TAIWAN)
BULGARIA	MONTENEGRO (PROXY TO CROATIA)
CANADA	MOROCCO
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COLOMBIA	(THE) NETHERLANDS
COSTA RICA	NICARAGUA
CROATIA	NORWAY
CYPRUS	PANAMA
CZECH REPUBLIC (PROXY TO AUSTRIA)	PARAGUAY
DENMARK	PERU
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	PORTUGAL
ESTONIA	PUERTO RICO
FINLAND	REPUBLIC OF CHINA - TAIWAN
FRANCE	SENEGAL
GERMANY	SERBIA (PROXY TO PORTUGAL)
GREECE	SLOVAKIA (PROXY TO HUNGARY)
GUINEA BISSAU (OBSERVER)	SLOVENIA
HUNGARY	SOUTH AFRICA
ICELAND	SPAIN
IRELAND	SWEDEN
ISRAEL	SWITZERLAND
ITALY	TUNISIA
KAZAKHSTAN	UKRAINE
LIBERIA (OBSERVER)	UNITED KINGDOM
LIECHTENSTEIN	URUGUAY
	USA

In attendance were also the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of Judges and Lawyers, Mr. Diego Sayan and representatives of the following organizations:

- Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association;
- Federación Latino-Americana de Magistrados;
- International Union of Portuguese Speaking Judges;
- International Association of Prosecutors;
- International Bar Association.

President Régnaud announced that the items dealing with the budgetary issues would be dealt with on Thursday November 16, 2017.

He then passed onto point n. 14.

#### **14. Monitoring procedure (Article 13, § 9 of I.A.J. Regulations)**

Vice-President Igreja Matos announced that all the members of the IAJ completed the procedure.

#### **15. I.A.J. and others:**

##### **15.1. I.A.J. and Hague Conference;**

President Régnaud informed the Central Council that Mr. Carette was not attending the meeting and asked whether there were comments or remarks on his reports, disseminated on 8 November 2017. The assembly made no observations.

##### **15.2. Possible discussion on written reports by I.A.J.'s Representatives at the U.N.O.;**

President Régnaud gave the floor to the IAJ representatives at the UN seats.

Ms. Louise Mailhot (UN seat in New York) referred to her written report adding some information on the Bonn Conference on Climate Change and on the appointment of judges at the International Court of Justice.

Mr. Pierre Zappelli (UN seat in Geneva) referred to his written report and underlined the constructive relationship between the IAJ and the new UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers.

Mr. Gerhard Reissner (UN seat in Vienna) referred to his written report and stressed the strong engagement of the UN in the fight against corruption.

##### **15.3. Possible discussion on written report by the Executive-President of the Foundation “Justice in the World”;**

President Régnaud informed the Central Council that the Executive President of the Foundation was not attending the meeting and underlined that the general situation of the Foundation did not change in the past year. As to the ceremony for the delivery of the Prize “Justice in the World”, there was the proposal not to hold it in Madrid but to deliver the prize during a Central Council meeting. President Régnaud added that the Statute of the Foundation prohibits awarding the prize to a judge or to an IAJ member association, but there are talks in the Foundation to modify this provision in order to award persons or associations fighting for the independence of the judiciary.

President Régnaud then invited the guests attending the meeting to take the floor in order to present their respective institution and illustrate their ideas about possible cooperation with the IAJ.

Mr. Diego Garcia Sayan, UN Special Rapporteur, summarized the history of that body of the UN and underlined the importance of the Universal Charter of the Judge.

Then, the following persons took the floor: Mr John Lowndes, President of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association; Mr. Oswaldo Ordonez, President of the Federación Latino-Americana de Magistrados; Ms. Flavia Viana, President of the International Union of Portuguese Speaking Judges; Mr. Han Moraal, Secretary General of the International Association of Prosecutors; Ms. Veronica Hinestroza, Senior Programme Lawyer at the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute.

President Régnaud then underlined that the organization of annual meetings is increasingly demanding. The Presidency Committee updated the guidelines for the organization of the meetings: the organizing association should impose no charge for the participation of guests invited by the Presidency Committee and it can invite its own guests. In addition, the Presidency Committee authorized the sponsorship of the event, provided that it is informed about the sponsor to verify that there is no conflict of interest.

## 9. Universal Charter of the Judge:

### 9.2 Official Ceremony for the signature of the Charter;

President Régnard read the Charter. He invited the Presidents of the Regional Groups to sign the Charter on behalf of all the national associations. The Universal Charter of the Judges, approved by the Central Council on November 13, was signed by President Christophe Régnard, First Vice-President Tony Pagone, Vice-Presidents Rafael De Menezes, José Manuel Igreja Matos, Cagney Musi and Secretary-General Giacomo Oberto, in Santiago, on 14 November 2017.

#### Session of 16 November 2017

The session started at 9.10.

Present:

- the President, Mr. Christophe Régnard;
- the First Vice-President, Mr. Gaetano Pagone;
- the Vice-Presidents Mr. Rafael De Menezes, Mr. José Manuel Igreja Matos, Mr. Cagney Musi, Mr. Đuro Sessa and Mr. Mikael Sjoberg;
- the Honorary Presidents Mrs. Cristina Crespo, Mr. Sidnei Beneti, Mr. Gerhard Reissner, Mrs. Maja Tratnik and Mr. Günter Woratsch;
- the Secretary-General, Mr. Giacomo Oberto;
- the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Raffaele Gargiulo;
- the IAJ representatives at the UN seats in New York and Geneva, Mrs. Louise Mailhot and Mr. Pierre Zappelli;
- the delegates of the following national associations (enclosure n. 3):

ALGERIA	LIECHTENSTEIN
ARGENTINA	LITHUANIA
AUSTRALIA	LUXEMBURG
AUSTRIA	MALI (PROXY TO SENEGAL)
BELGIUM	MAURITANIA (PROXY TO ALGERIA)
BRAZIL	MOLDOVA
BULGARIA	MONGOLIA (PROXY TO TAIWAN)
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COLOMBIA	MOZAMBIQUE
COSTA RICA	(THE) NETHERLANDS
CROATIA	NICARAGUA
CYPRUS	NORWAY
CZECH REPUBLIC (PROXY TO AUSTRIA)	PANAMA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	PARAGUAY
DENMARK	PERU
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	PORTUGAL
ESTONIA	PUERTO RICO
FINLAND	REPUBLIC OF CHINA - TAIWAN
FRANCE	SENEGAL
GERMANY	SERBIA (PROXY TO PORTUGAL)
GREECE	SLOVAKIA (PROXY TO HUNGARY)
GUINEA BISSAU	SLOVENIA
HUNGARY	SOUTH AFRICA
ICELAND	SPAIN
IRELAND	SWEDEN
ISRAEL	SWITZERLAND
ITALY	TUNISIA



IVORY COAST (PROXY TO DEM. REP. OF CONGO)	UKRAINE
KAZAKHSTAN	UNITED KINGDOM
LIBERIA	URUGUAY
	USA

In attendance were also representatives of the following organizations:

- Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association, Mr John Lowndes, President;
- Federación Latino-Americana de Magistrados, Mr. Oswaldo Ordonez, President.

Since the Moroccan delegation was due to leave in a short while, President Régnard proposed to deal first with item 17 of the agenda.

### **17. Meetings of the IAJ in the next years;**

Mr. Mohamed Khadraoui, Vice President of the *Amicale Hassania des Magistrats* presented to the assembly the proposal of his association for the 2018 meeting, to be held in Marrakech, most probably in the third week on November. President Régnard added that the association had proposed the second week, but the Presidency Committee asked to change the dates, because of the concomitant meeting of CCJE, whose President is the IAJ Vice-President Duro Sessa.

The Secretary-General carried out a check on votes and proxies: 60 members were present (in attendance or by proxy). The eight proxies were the following:

- from the association of Czech Republic to the association of Austria;
- from the association of Ivory Coast to the association of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- from the association of Mali to the Association of Senegal;
- from the association of Mauritania to the association of Algeria;
- from the association of Mongolia to the association of Taiwan;
- from the association of Montenegro to the association of Croatia;
- from the association of Serbia to the association of Portugal; and
- from the association of Slovakia to the association of Hungary.

### **11. Budget of the International Association of Judges;**

The assistant to the IAJ Treasurer, Ms. Barbara Scolart, took the floor to illustrate the Central Council the financial report, the balance sheet and the budget for next year. She underlined that there were no excesses of items at the date of the meeting.

Ms. Scolart underlined that the Italian *Associazione Nazionale Magistrati* granted also for the past year the special contribution to finance the salary of the assistant to the Secretary-General.

President Régnard thanked Treasurer and the Assistants to the General Secretariat for the accurate keeping of the accounts and expressed the IAJ's gratitude to the ANM for its support.

The Central Council made no remarks on the report and, upon proposal of the IAJ President, unanimously approved it as well as the draft budget for the year 2017-2018 (enclosure n. 4).

### **12. Translation cost for Study Commissions;**

President Régnard illustrated to the assembly the issue of translations costs.

Last year, the Central Council decided, upon proposal of the Presidency Committee, to grant a bonus of 10,000 euro to finance translations for the Study Commissions.

The sum was quite important and, therefore, the Presidency Committee debated the issue with the Boards of the Study Commissions to ascertain the usefulness of the translations. They explained clearly how the simultaneous translations helped the works, allowing the full participation of all delegates and the acceleration of the debates.

Therefore, the Presidency Committee decided that, also for next year, if the hosting association of the annual meeting will organize simultaneous translations in the Study Commissions, it will receive a special contribution of 10,000 euro to cover part of the expenses.

The Central Council approved.

### **13. Report by the auditors;**

Upon recommendation of Justice Barone and Justice Giannaccari, who were appointed by the Central Council to audit the accounts, the Assembly unanimously approved the financial report and the closed budget for the year 2016-2017 and discharged the General Secretariat of any responsibility in this respect. President Régnard thanked the auditors.

### **16. Reports by the Presidents of the Study-Commissions. Selection of the new subjects;**

President Régnard called on the Presidents of the four Study Commissions to report on the conclusions of the Commissions on their respective subjects:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Study Commission - Ms. Roslyn Atkinson: “The threats to the Independence of the judiciary and the Quality of Justice: workload, resources and budget”;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Study Commission - Mr. Thomas Cyr: “The use of technology in civil litigation matters”;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Study Commission - Mr. Chuck Simpson: “The Sentencing of Criminal Offenders, part II”;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Study Commission - Mr. Philippe Bron: “Flexible and emerging labour relationship”.

The Presidents also proposed the subjects to be dealt with by the Study Commissions in 2018:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Study Commission: “The trend of public criticism towards judges and judicial decisions in a disrespectful manner by other state powers, the media and in social media”;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Study Commission: “Strategies for effective case management”;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Study Commission: “: A. Treatment of witnesses, including children, protected witnesses and sexually abused victims. B. Trial Procedures. C. Mandatory sentences”;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Study Commission: “Rights and obligations of refugees: a risk of modern slavery?”.

The Central Council approved the conclusions as well as the proposed topics for 2018.

### **17. Meetings of the IAJ in the next years.**

Coming back again to point n. 17 of the agenda, President Régnard recalled that the Presidency Committee positively evaluated the possibility of having sponsors for the annual meetings and recommended the interested associations to contact the General Secretariat to clarify any detail and to fix the calendar of next meetings.

### **18. Miscellanea.**

President Régnard illustrated the draft resolution on Turkey prepared by Honorary President Reissner. It was a proposal of the Presidency Committee to show, through a formal statement, the attention and solidarity of the IAJ towards Turkish colleagues and to react to the accusations of being a terrorist organization.

After a lively debate concerning some linguistic aspects, the Central Council unanimously approved the document (enclosure n. 5).

President Régnard then asked the IAJ members to send to the General Secretariat the translations that they will eventually make of the new Universal Charter, to facilitate its dissemination. He added that the General Secretariat would prepare a printed version of the document.

First Vice-President Pagone took the floor to inform the Central Council on the situation in Puerto Rico, where the bankruptcy of the Government caused the reduction of the salaries and pensions of judges. At present, the association did not request a resolution, but wanted the Central Council to be informed.

President Régnard then gave the floor to Mr. Thomas Stadelmann, who informed the Central Council about two initiatives.

The first one was the establishment of a “Judiciary Research Platform” to collect information and documents on judicial independence, discipline, deontology etc. (see enclosure n. 6).

The second was the drafting of a book titled “The situation of the Turkish Judiciary in 2018” (see enclosure n. 7)

President Régnard thanked Mr. Stadelmann and encouraged the IAJ members to participate in both initiatives.

Mr. Lara Acuña, President of the Colombian Association, took the floor to thank the Vice-Presidents Igreja Matos and de Menezes for their support in hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Seminar on corruption within the judiciary, with the cooperation of FLAM and the International Union of Portuguese Speaking Judges.

President Régnard thanked the Chilean Association and its organizing committee for the precious work done to host the meeting and closed the meeting at 11.45.

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Christophe Régnard  
President

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Giacomo Oberto  
Secretary-General

Enclosures:

1. list of participants – 13 November 2017;
2. list of participants – 14 November 2017;
3. list of participants – 16 November 2017;
4. financial documents;
5. resolution on Turkey;
6. project for a “Judiciary Research Platform”;
7. project for the book “The situation of the Turkish Judiciary in 2018”.