



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI**

PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA - PIAZZA CAVOUR - 00193 ROMA - ITALY

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE PRESIDENCY COMMITTEE OF THE I.A.J.**

Rome, Friday 24 May 2002, 3 p.m., and Saturday 25 May 2002, 10.00 a.m.

Session of Friday 24 May

Participants:

Mr Tarek Bennour	President of the I.A.J.
Mr Ernst Markel	First Vice-President
Mrs. Louise Mailhot	Vice-President
Mr Sidnei Beneti	Vice-President
Mr Louis Denecker	Vice-President
Mr Mamadou Mansour Sy	Vice-President
Mrs. Maja Tratnik	Vice-President
Mr Antonio Mura	Secretary General
Mr Giacomo Oberto	Deputy Secretary General
Mr Galileo D'Agostino	Deputy Secretary General
Mr Raffaello Gargiulo	Deputy Secretary General

The meeting which was opened at 3p.m. by Vice President Mr. Markel, took place on the premises of the National Association of Italian Judges. Firstly, the Vice-President Mr. Markel announced that due to an air transport strike, President Tarek Bennour would arrive towards 4 p.m. Therefore, on behalf of the President, Mr. Markel thanked the Italian Association and the Secretariat General for organising the meeting, and then passed onto the items on the agenda, the first of which was reports by the Vice-Presidents responsible for regional groups.

4. Reports of the vice presidents responsible for the regional groups

Vice-President Mrs. Mailhot was given the floor to highlight the main features of her written report concerning the A.N.A.O. Regional Group, of which she is President. She emphasised that the Group had maintained its contacts by means of newsletters which each country respectively was given the responsibility of sending to the other members. Regarding the situation in Japan, she informed the Committee that she had sent two letters to the President and the Secretary General of Japanese association, respectively. A reply to the second letter had been received on behalf of the Secretary General, Mr. Yamazaki. In the course of this letter, the Japanese association rejected the solution suggested by Mrs. Mailhot aimed at the involvement of two delegates from the Japan Judges Network within the framework of the Japanese delegation, composed of six members. In the same letter Mr. Yamazaki had emphasised that the Japanese delegation always sent fluent English-speaking colleagues. In addition, he declared that the lack of participation by the Japanese association in meetings of the A.N.A.O. Group was because such participation is considered to be of no interest to their members. Mrs. Mailhot also informed the Committee of her visit to Australia, where she met high representatives of the local judicial power.

The Committee (with the approval of President Bennour, informed after his arrival during the afternoon) decided not to reply to the letter of the Japan Judges Network seeking to obtain from the I.A.J. the list of names of the Japanese judges who had participated in the meetings held by the I.A.J. It also decided to send a letter to the Japanese association before the meeting in Abidjan. As a result of this letter, the association will be invited to send its President, or a person authorised by him, to the Ivory Coast. The President of the Japanese association (or his delegate) will be received by the Presidency Committee for a talk on the problems mentioned in Mrs. Mailhot's letter.

Vice-President Mr. Sy, President of the African Regional Group, then took the floor. Firstly, he referred to the meeting of the Group, held in Marrakech, in the Kingdom of Morocco, from 7th to 10th April. During this event the Group dealt in particular with the following two subjects: "The Judiciary and Globalisation" and "The Higher Judicial Council". In addition, the assembly discussed the problems of the associations of various African countries. The meeting was organised in a remarkable way by Morocco, one of three associations which added vitality to the Group.

Mr. Sy then mentioned the campaign he is carrying out in the name of the Group in defence of the autonomy and independence of the judiciary in Africa. The situation is particularly alarming in Guinea Bissau, where the President of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General and the President of the Association of Judges were dismissed last year because of a decision returned by the aforementioned Court. Shortly afterwards, these same colleagues were arrested by the police. Mr Sy wanted to obtain information on this case from the ambassador of Guinea Bissau in Dakar, but unfortunately he was only able to meet him on one brief occasion. He added that he considered a visit to Guinea Bissau to be absolutely necessary in order to better evaluate the situation and obtain further information. Mr Sy said that he was confident that on such occasion he would be able to meet the President of the Republic or the Minister of Justice. He then spoke about the concern of the Brazilian colleagues over the situation. Mr Sy would like to go to Guinea Bissau before the meeting in Abidjan. Mr. Sy would also like to visit Burkina Faso, in order to draft his report on the application for membership of that country. He would also like to visit Guinea Conakry, where the situation of local colleagues is very difficult. Several high-ranking judges from Guinea Conakry may be invited by the colleagues of the Ivory Coast to Abidjan.

At this point the President of the I.A.J. entered the hall and took the chair.

Regarding Burundi, President Sy gave notice of a moving letter sent by a colleague of that country to Mr Markel and passed on by the Secretariat of the IAJ to the African Group. The colleague from Burundi wrote about the attacks carried out by the political body against the independence of the judiciary. The letter reported that the European Union is trying to reinforce the legislative power in Burundi. Mr Sy added that it is necessary to act quickly, even if the IAJ does not have the means of the European Union. The Committee, taking into account the fact that Burundi is not member of the I.A.J., decided that the question fell under the competencies of the African Regional Group.

Moving onto the problem of Malawi, Mr. Sy pointed out that the local judges had contacted the International Commission of Jurists, which had submitted a request to the I.A.J. for a delegation to be sent to that country. Unfortunately, the invitation came too late: consequently, Mr. Sy and Honorary President Mr. Woratsch were unable to visit Malawi.

Finally, Mr. Sy informed the Committee that in Marrakech the association of the Ivory Coast had reassured the Group on the state of preparation for the meeting in Abidjan.

Vice-President Mr. Beneti, President of the Regional Ibero-American Group, took the floor to discuss his written report, delivered to the members of the Committee. Firstly, Mr. Beneti commented on the visit made by the President of the I.A.J. to Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru, during which he and Mr. Beneti followed an intense program of meetings and interviews related in detail within the report. After the meeting of the Presidency Committee in Madrid, Mr. Beneti also participated in the Congress of the Portuguese Judges' association from 8th to 20th November, 2001. On 19th December, 2001, he visited the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and took part in the meeting of the Academic Council of the Foundation's Institute in Alicante, from 25th to 27th February, 2002. Mr. Beneti informed the Committee that the first training activity aimed at his Group had been organised for 9th to 15th June, 2002, in Alicante – a conference dealing with the relations between judicial and executive powers.

Mr. Beneti then notified the Committee of the springtime meeting of the Group, held in Paraguay from 7th to 9th March, 2002. During this meeting reports were submitted concerning the independence of judicial power in countries belonging to the Group. The representatives of Bolivia and Paraguay informed the Group of the improvements of the situation in their countries, by emphasising the importance of the visit made by Mr. Bennour and Mr. Beneti. The situation in Peru

remained unchanged. The meeting had also dealt with the problems of Argentina. A motion, unanimously approved, had been addressed to the authorities of Argentina, as well as to the United Nations. A copy of this document had also been sent to the High Commissioner of the United Nations for Human Rights in Geneva.

The President of the Ibero American Group then described to the Committee his visit to the United Nations Commission for Human Rights in Geneva on 2nd May, 2002, where he explained the action taken by the I.A.J. in defence of the independence of judicial power on a global level. Mr. Beneti also participated in the Meeting of the E.A.J. in Lausanne. Finally, he informed the Committee of the decision to publish documents relating to the Group on the internet, via the I.A.J. Web site. The Group will also edit a newsletter similar to the "Euro-Iustitia" bulletin.

Vice-President Mr. Markel outlined his activities since the meeting in Madrid, compiled in a written report delivered to members of the Committee. Firstly, he mentioned the program of the "Open Society Institute", the object of which was to monitor countries requiring accession to the E.U. This Institute had focused initially on judicial independence and the statute of judges within the countries concerned. Following this investigation, a second report will be drawn up about the effectiveness of justice, in order to examine the degree to which the performance of judges and their auxiliaries guarantee qualified and effective justice in countries requiring accession to the E.U. The President of the E.A.J. will also take part in this study. Mr. Markel informed the Committee that he had held discussions with the President of the Bulgarian Association of Judges. This association is likely to apply for membership of the I.A.J. in the near future, as Bulgarian judges seem to be dissatisfied with the activity undertaken by MEDEL, an organisation to which this association belongs.

Mr. Markel mentioned the course in Madrid, organised for the E.A.J. by the "Justice in the World" Foundation, on European co-operation in penal matters. This conference was a success, despite the late arrival of information on the event. Delegates from 23 countries of the E.A.J. attended the meeting and expressed their satisfaction with this initiative. Mr. Markel stressed that the participants in these meetings are not chosen by the Ministries for justice, but by the respective associations, which usually send experienced and qualified people.

At this point Mr. Markel remarked upon the meeting held by the E.A.J. in Lausanne, during which two subjects had been dealt with in a particular way, namely the situation of judicial power in certain Member States and the blueprint statute for the E.A.J. Regarding the former, he explained why the E.A.J. had decided to set up a working group under the presidency of Vice President Tratnik. This group had studied the situation of Croatia, Moldova and the Czech Republic. Mrs. Tratnik and Honorary President Mr. Woratsch had also visited Croatia. Reports on this visit and that of the working group on the three countries concerned, were submitted to the assembly of the E.A.J. which approved them. The group will also deal with the follow-up of this project.

Mr. Markel brought to the attention of the Committee an initiative of the Israeli bar, consisting of distribution of a questionnaire among its members, to evaluate the conduct of judges, answers to which were sent anonymously by lawyers. This initiative led to a type of anonymous "evaluation" of local judges, published by the local press. The investigation revealed some judges to be "classified" or even the "worst judges" in Israel. After a long discussion on this question, the E.A.J. issued an opinion, unanimously approved by the assembly, which will be sent by the President of the E.A.J. to the European Bar Association.

Approaching the matter of the future structures of the regional groups, Mr. Markel highlighted the detailed discussion of this issue which took place in Lausanne. Equal mention was given to the draft statute prepared by the working group, chaired by Mr. Schiøler. The E.A.J. approved the proposal made by President Markel, aimed at considering approval of the project, with an amendment suggested by the Netherlands. However, exception was made to the part relating to the election of Presidents of the Regional Groups, as well as to the creation of a Secretariat General for the Group. These subjects will be dealt with during the meeting of Abidjan. Mr. Markel thanked Vice-President Mr. Denecker for the French translation of the draft statute for the E.A.J. The Presidency Committee decided to set up a working group composed of the four Vice-Presidents

who are Presidents of the Regional Groups, and the Secretary General. President Bennour invited the members of this group to exchange their reports on the draft statute by mail, before 31st August, 2002. The Committee has yet to focus on this subject at its meeting in Abidjan.

1. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the Presidency Committee were approved unanimously, with the following amendments, suggested by Mr. Markel:

- page 1, point 2., 1st paragraph, instead of "during the meeting of the IAJ": "during the meeting of the EAJ" (this amendment relates only to the English version);
- page 3, point 4., 3rd paragraph, instead of "was not necessary for the regional groups": "is not necessary for each regional group";
- page 5, point 9., 1st paragraph, instead of "Mr. Markel will also draft a document": "the EAJ intends to draft a document".

2. Report of the President of the IAJ

Having thanked the presidents of the Regional Groups for their exhaustive reports, the President of the I.A.J. then submitted the report on his activities. After the meeting in Madrid Mr. Bennour had maintained contact with the Secretariat General in order to prepare the regional group meetings, as well as that of the I.A.J. in Abidjan. In November 2001 Mr. Bennour was invited by the association of the judges of Moldova to Chisinau, where he met local colleagues, who informed him of the extreme working conditions of judges in Moldova. The situation is very difficult there, particularly regarding the infrastructures, the material means and the salaries of judges.

President Bennour also received a letter, which had been initially sent to Mr. Markel about the situation in Burundi. This letter was delivered to Mr. Sy, who addressed this issue during the meeting of the African Group. Following an invitation by the association of young Arab lawyers, Mr. Bennour assisted in the Netherlands at the lawsuit for the Lockerbie affaire.

Regarding the "Justice in the World" Foundation, Mr. Bennour mentioned the conference on "Justice and Globalisation", initially planned for October 2001 and subsequently postponed to January 2002. Unfortunately, only 16 applications were sent within the deadline, while at least 25-30 applications were required in order to organise the meeting. Mr. Bennour expressed the desire to be able to organise this meeting for next autumn.

Mr. Bennour then raised the case of the woman from Nigeria, who had been sentenced to death for adultery. He had received a request for the intervention of the I.A.J. on this matter. However, he had decided not to issue a statement, as this case concerned an individual and the independence of the judiciary did not seem to be at stake. The President also received a letter informing him of the creation of a Moroccan Centre for the Defence of the Independence of the Judiciary. However, this new association gathers not only judges, but also other jurists, such as lawyers and university professors. Therefore, it will not be possible to consider it as an applicant for membership of the I.A.J.

Concerning the Ibero American Group, President Bennour had been invited to visit three South American countries: Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru, where judicial power is in a particularly difficult state, as judges are not appointed for life, being obliged to be confirmed periodically, after a certain number of years (2, 3 or 5 years) in their posts. During these visits Mr. Bennour and Mr. Beneti succeeded in convincing the local authorities of Paraguay to modify the current legislation, in order to reduce the number of confirmations of judges to one. Unfortunately, the I.A.J.'s commission was unable to convince the authorities of Peru, where the situation of judicial power is always very difficult.

President Bennour was also invited by the Italian association of judges to take part in the congress of Salerno, where he made a speech on behalf of the I.A.J. He also attended the meeting of the African Group in Marrakech during the month of April. With regard to the Moroccan association, the President informed the Committee that he had also been to Rabat, where he had had a series of meetings with Moroccan colleagues. During these talks he was informed of the

complex situation of the local association, which has been chaired for several years by a temporary president.

For health reasons Mr. Bennour could not go to Paraguay for the meeting of the Ibero American Group. For the same reason it was impossible for him to attend the meeting of the Foundation in Alicante. However, in May he attended the meeting of the E.A.J. in Lausanne. He will also attend the meeting of the association of Balkan jurists, in Patras, Greece.

The President then opened the discussion on two invitation letters received from the People's Republic of China. He first informed the Committee that the judges association of the People's Republic of China had submitted a formal application for membership of the I.A.J. At the same time he had received two invitations to visit the country. The first was an invitation to participate in the work of the World Trade Organisation; the second was an official invitation on behalf of the Chinese association, extended to the Secretary General and to another member of the Presidency Committee.

These letters were preceded by contacts with Chinese diplomatic officials. The application for membership lays down certain conditions concerning the denomination of the association of Taiwan. The Committee decided to postpone the decision on this point until the following day.

The President instructed the Secretariat General to reply by electronic mail to the invitation sent by the Danish bar to attend a conference scheduled for September.

The session was concluded at 6 p.m.

Session of Saturday 25 May

At 10 a.m. President Bennour opened the meeting. Mr. Antonio Patrono, President of the National Association of the Italian Judges (A.N.M.), delivered a welcome address to the Committee emphasising the interest of the A.N.M. towards the activities of the I.A.J. Mr. Bennour thanked Mr. Patrono for the support assured by the Italian Association to the I.A.J. and for the contribution made towards the organisation of the meeting. President Bennour pointed out that the Italian judiciary was commemorating at that particular time, the tenth anniversary of the assassination of the Italian judge Giovanni Falcone, killed by the Mafia. The Committee observed one minute of silence in memory of judge Falcone, as well as of the judges killed because of their fight against crime.

Also participating were the Honorary Presidents Mrs. Pâquerette Girard and Mr. Ramon Rodriguez Arribas, the latter in his capacity as Executive President of the "Justice in the World" Foundation.

The President then passed onto the examination of the other items on the agenda.

3. Report of the Secretariat General

The Secretary General Mr. Mura raised the question of application for membership and invitations sent by the association of the People's Republic of China. He added that he had been contacted by a Danish colleague about the association of Kazakhstan, which would be interested in joining our association. The Secretariat had provided the colleague with all possible information on this subject. Mr. Markel was also contacted by this association; the Secretariat General will provide all the necessary information concerning membership of the I.A.J. Information on the I.A.J. was also requested by the Association of Democratic Lawyers of Korea. Mr. Mura then notified the Committee of a letter of invitation from the offices of the OCSE in Warsaw, to a meeting held in Poland on judicial organisation and the protection of human rights. Unfortunately, this information arrived too late. The Polish association, whom Mr. Mura requested to attend the meeting, failed to provide details on this initiative.

The Secretariat also received a letter from the NGO department of the United Nations concerning an invitation to the 55th annual conference of the NGOs accredited at UNO. Mr. Mura highlighted the need for our representatives at the United Nations to inform us on a regular basis about the activities undertaken by this organisation.

With regard to contributions, the Secretary General informed the Committee that 4 national associations were at risk of exclusion under the statutes of the I.A.J., having failed to pay their contributions for the years 2000 to 2002 inclusively. These associations are Cameroon (extraordinary member), Niger (4th level), Tanzania (4th level) and Venezuela (extraordinary member). Malta and Hungary did not pay their contributions for the years 1999, 2001 and 2002.

Mr. Mura informed the Committee of the problem concerning the expenses for bank transfers, which sometimes reach the sum of € 30.00 for each operation. The Committee decided that in future, letters addressed by the Secretariat to national associations for payment of contributions will specify that fees must be sent to the I.A.J. free of any charge related to bank transfer.

Mr. Mura added that he had received a letter from the association of Mongolia, requesting financial assistance for the payment of travel expenses. The Committee decided definitively to refuse this request, as it had been made before in similar cases.

Concerning the matter of the Web site, the Secretary General informed the Committee of the great number of visits which it had received, as well as of the requests for information from universities and research institutes. The Secretariat will soon carry out the creation of two parts of the Web site, access to which will be limited to national associations and the Presidency Committee. A banner (a kind of privileged hypertext link) will be inserted in the site of the I.A.J. towards the site of the Foundation (and vice versa). Mr. Mura finally informed the Committee of the participation of the Deputy Secretary General, Mr. D'Agostino in a conference on the European constitution, which took place in Italy.

On the question of China, the Committee noted that the letter sent by the concerned association seemed to suggest that not all the requirements for independence of the organisation had been met. Following a lengthy discussion, the Committee decided that the Secretariat will submit a response, both to the letter of invitation from the association and the application for membership, on behalf of the Presidency Committee, specifying that the request will follow the usual course of applications for membership. The invitation to visit the People's Republic of China will be taken into account later, during the admission procedure. The Secretary General will ask the association of the People's Republic of China for copies of the statutes of the association, as well as the texts of laws concerning the judiciary. The President will also write a letter of thanks for the invitation to the conference of the World Trade Organisation, explaining the impossibility of his participation.

Referring to Russia, Mr. Markel informed the Committee of the contacts with delegates who participated in the meeting of the E.A.J. in Lausanne. There he had also been provided with law texts in Russian concerning the statute of judges. Mr. Markel will contact Mr. Popov again, requesting a translation of these texts. He will also inform the Russian colleagues that they will be invited to Abidjan as observers, but this will be the last time, since it appears necessary to set up within Russia an association which possesses the essential characteristics and meets the conditions required for membership of the I.A.J. Mr. Markel will inform the Secretariat General of the reply to his letter. Meanwhile, the Secretariat General will send a letter of invitation for one Russian observer (accompanied by an interpreter, if necessary) to the meeting of Abidjan.

2. Reports by the Executive President of the Foundation, the President of the Academic Council and the Director of the Publications Service of the Foundation and debate

Honorary President Mr. Rodriguez Arribas took the floor to submit his report on the activities of the Foundation since the last meeting in Madrid. Concerning the publication service of the Foundation, the last issue of the review, No. 9, had been published and delivered to members of the Committee. This issue is entirely devoted to the works of the Madrid meetings. Meanwhile, the Foundation Web page had received more than 10,000 visits. The Director of the publishing service, Mr. Reis Figueira, had already started preparing issue No. 10, as well as the insertion of issue No. 9 of the review into the Foundation Web page. Mr. Reis Figueira had also initiated contacts with a Portuguese foundation in order to emphasise the publishing initiatives of the Foundation. He had

also maintained contact with the Luso-American Foundation, in order to facilitate the distribution of the review of the Foundation among the courts and universities of the United States.

Approaching the matter of the International Institute, Mr. Rodriguez Arribas spoke about the last meeting of the Academic Council, held in Alicante during the inauguration of the new premises, which had been placed at the disposal of the Foundation by the university and the municipality of Alicante. This meeting was chaired by the Vice-President of the I.A.J., Mrs. Louise Mailhot. During this event several decisions were taken in the field of judicial training. Firstly, a new coordinator for training activities was appointed in the person of Mr. Ruben Jimenez Fernandez, former Spanish delegate and future delegate for the meeting of Abidjan. In future, annual training courses for judges will be organised on a regional basis, by means of close cooperation between the Foundation and the various regional groups of the I.A.J. In this regard, Mr. Jimenez Fernandez will be assisted by the sub-director for judicial training, Mr. Kriegk. The reports submitted at these conferences will be published by the Foundation.

In the field of legal research, the Foundation is currently working on three projects. The first relates to a questionnaire prepared by Mr. Beneti and Mr. Kriegk which will be submitted to all I.A.J. member associations. A final document will be prepared and sent to all national associations. The topic of this research will be: "Causes and remedies of judicial delays". This project will pass through several stages, consisting initially of the gathering of material on the Internet, as well as in retrieving the work carried out in the past on this topic within the study commissions of the I.A.J. A questionnaire will then be delivered to national associations. Several rapporteurs will be named at a later stage in order to recapitulate the results of these questionnaires and to analyse the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights concerning judicial delays. Another field of research will be that of international terrorism. The Institute decided to prepare a publication containing an inventory of the national and international legislations on this topic. The publication of this work will be financed by a local Spanish autonomous community.

Mr. Rodriguez Arribas then referred to the meeting organised in April by the Foundation. A training course will be organised in Alicante, in June for the Ibero-American Group. Later, two other conferences will take place: one for the African Group, possibly in the Canary Islands, in September, and another for the A.N.A.O. Group, in Alicante. Regarding the "Justice in the World" prize, the jury decided in December 2001 to award the prize to Mrs. Louise Arbour. The presentation ceremony will be held in Madrid on June 27th; it will probably be chaired by Mr. Antonio Vitorino, E.U. Commissioner for Justice and Interior. Finally, the Executive President of the Foundation added that there was the possibility of installing in Sao Paulo a continental seat of the Foundation for Latin America.

The Patronage of the Foundation held its meeting on December 11th, 2001. During this meeting the following people were nominated to be appointed members of the Patronage by the Presidency Committee: Mr. José Ramón Ferrándiz Gabriel, President of the Spanish association of judges, Mr. Rubén Jiménez Fernández, Coordinator of the training courses of the World School for Judges, Mr. José Palazuelos Morlanes, President of "Toga" Association of Alicante; Mr. Ernst Markel, First Vice President of the I.A.J. (on a purely personal and long-term basis, in consideration of the collaboration he had provided to the Foundation). The Patronage had accepted the voluntary resignation of Mr. Antonio Muñoz Cabrero, for personal reasons. The Committee approves the proposal and appoints members of the Patronage the above mentioned people.

The President thanked Mr. Rodriguez Arribas for the extremely interesting information just conveyed. The Committee approved the report of the Executive President of the Foundation as well as the written report of the Director of the Service of the Publications of the Foundation. The Committee was also notified of the decision of the Steering Committee of the Foundation to compile periodically a situation report on the independence of judicial power in different countries of the world. This report will be put at the disposal of the bodies of the I.A.J., which will utilise it in the way they consider to be most useful. The Committee was also informed of the intention of the Foundation to organise an annual charity gala reception, during the presentation ceremony of the "Justice in the World" award. The same information will be conveyed to the Central Council in

Abidjan. The Secretariat will inform the association of the Ivory Coast that the Foundation received the estimate for the simultaneous translation service in the study commission. The Foundation will let the colleagues of the Ivory Coast know as soon as possible whether the estimate was accepted by the Foundation.

The Committee decided to refund to the Executive President of the Foundation (or to his delegate), travel expenses required for attendance of meetings of the I.A.J. in which he will have to submit to the Presidency Committee his report on the activities of the Foundation. The Committee decided to refund the same expenses to the Honorary President for attending the meetings of the Presidency Committee.

3. Organisation of the next annual meeting

Taking into account the as yet limited number of inscriptions, the Secretariat will remind national associations and that of the Ivory Coast of the need to respect the deadline of 30th June, 2002 for sending application forms to the Secretariat. During the meeting the Committee highlighted the importance of not giving the impression that the I.A.J. endorses the regime currently in power in the Ivory Coast.

4. Annual meetings for the year 2003 and following

With regard to the meeting of 2003, Mr. Markel informed the Committee that the Honorary President Mr. Woratsch was appointed President of the Steering Committee for the organisation of the meeting in Vienna. The delegates will be accommodated in several hotels, all within close proximity of one another. The meetings will take place in the town hall. The dates of the meetings are those from the 9th to 13th November, 2003. An excursion will take place in Southern Austria. A conference of the same kind of the one which in Recife had been devoted to the memory of Philippe Abravanel should take place at the end of the meeting on the self-administration of justice.

For the year 2004, the President of the Ibero-American Group informed the Committee of the availability as expressed by the Mexican association, if the Argentinean association should not be able to organise the annual meeting. The topic will be discussed in Abidjan.

For the year 2005, Morocco had submitted its candidature. The subject will be discussed again thereafter, in consideration of the problems of the Moroccan association.

5. News concerning the national Associations (Japan, Venezuela and others):

See the reports of the Presidents of Regional Groups.

6. Applications by: a) Burkina Faso; b) Panama

Mr. Sy will travel to Burkina Faso before the meeting of Abidjan, in order to be able to submit his report to the Presidency Committee. Regarding Panama, Mr. Beneti explained that he was still awaiting data from the local association enabling him to compile his report. Mr. Beneti will visit Panama before the Abidjan meeting. The Secretariat will send to Mr. Beneti facsimiles of reports concerning previous applications for membership of the I.A.J. An observer of Burkina Faso and an observer of Panama will be invited to Abidjan if the reports on these associations are positive. These two candidatures will be put on the agenda of the Presidency Committee and not that of the Central Council.

7. Study on the reduction of the levels of the contributions

Mr. Mura informed the Committee that the Secretariat had not received comments on the study which it had carried out on the possibility of reducing the levels of contributions. Mr. Markel pointed out that we should first clarify the goals we want to achieve through this reform. The Committee remarked that the subject cannot be regarded as urgent. In Abidjan, presidents of the Regional Groups will advise the associations belonging to the lower levels to upgrade their contributions.

8. Budget

See enclosure. The Secretary General informed the Committee on the state of payment of contributions. Associations which were late with their payments had already received a reminder. Mr. Mura asked the presidents of the Groups to insist on the need to respect deadlines for payment of the contributions, during their meeting in Abidjan. The Secretary General delivered to the Presidents of the Regional Groups the tables of associations which are late in the payment of their contributions, as well as a copy of the reminders for the payments.

9. Miscellanea

Following the decision taken in Madrid on the topic of corruption, the Committee decided to install a committee of highly regarded individuals. This committee will be composed of five members: two issuing from the E.A.J. and the others from each of the other Regional Groups; the committee will be coordinated by the First Vice President Mr. Markel. The presidents of the Groups will have to communicate the names of the members to Mr. Markel before the end of September.

Concerning the proposal of Mrs. Tratnik, the Committee decided that the Secretariat General will write a letter to the presidents of the study commissions, requesting them to send their final draft reports before 15th September.

Concerning the proposal of President Bennour, the Committee invited Mr. Beneti to propose to the President of the First Study Commission that focus be given to the modernisation of justice, according to the proposal advanced by the Argentinean colleague, Mr. Brito.

The Committee finally decided to invite to the meeting in Abidjan the Director of the Service of Publications of the Foundation, Mr. Alvaro Reis Figueira, former Vice President of the I.A.J. During the meeting, Mr. Mura delivered to the participants the directory of the Presidency Committee.

The President closed the meeting at 6.00 p.m., with a reminder that that was the last meeting of the Committee in Rome in which he would take part as President of the I.A.J. He expressed his satisfaction with the work accomplished and his thanks to the members of the Committee, and the Secretariat General.

Enclosure:

Information on the expenses from 14th September 2001 to 22nd May 2002



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI**

PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA - PIAZZA CAVOUR - 00193 ROMA - ITALY

PC Roma - budget 020522

EXPENSES FROM 14 SEPTEMBER 2001 TO 22MAY 2002

(in EURO)

BALANCE SHEET 2001-2002	Expenses from 14 September 2001	Availability on 22 May 2002 (or excess of item)
1. Meetings of the Presidency Committee 6,197.48	0	6,197.48
2. Reimbursement of expenses to the President or his delegates, to the Honorary Presidents and to the rapporteurs:		
a. reimbursement of expenses to the President or his delegates (travel, general and representation expenses, occasional assistance staff, communication expenses) 7,230.41	2,319.42	4,910.99
b. reimbursement of travel expenses to Honorary Presidents and rapporteurs 2,582.28	0	2,582.28
3. Expenses of the General Secretariat:		
a. travel, general and representation expenses of the Secretary- General 1,549.37	0	1,549.37
b. the same for the Deputy-Secretaries-General 1,032.91	0	1,032.91
c. expenses of the General Secretariat for participation in and organisation of the meetings of the Central Council, the Study Commissions and the Regional Groups 8,263.31	4,805.61	3,457.70
d. occasional staff 5,164.57	1,021.76	4,142.81
e. translations 1,032.91	108.46	924.45
f. office supplies and publications 4,648.11	3,346.46	1,301.65
g. communication expenses (post, telephone, Internet etc.) 5,164.57	1,321.85	3,842.72
h. various items 516.46	18.06	498.40
TOTAL IAJ without the Regional Groups 43,382.38 (+ reserves 61,089.02)	12,941.62	30,440.76 (+ reserves 61,089.02)
4. Contributions to the Regional Groups:		
Total = 10,329.12		
a. African Group 2,582.28 (+ reserves 637.39)	1,337.88	1,244.40 (+ reserves 637.39)
b. European Group 2,582.28 (+ reserves 11,094.93)	450.99	2,131.29 (+ reserves 11,094.93)
c. Iberoamerican Group 2,582.28 (+ reserves 7,387.62)	0	2,582.28 (+ reserves 7,387.62)
d. Asian, North American, Oceanian Group 2,582.28 (+ reserves 6,570.88)	0	2,582.28 (+ reserves 6,570.88)
TOTAL IAJ with the Regional Groups 53,711.50 (+ reserves 86,779.84)	14,730.49	38,981.01 (+ reserves 86,779.84)

**plus the special contribution from the Italian "Associazione Nazionale Magistrati" for the professional staff of
the IAJ General Secretariat**

Français / French >>>>>