

THE FOUNDATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES IN SALZBURG IN THE YEAR 1953

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The 6th Meeting of Italian judges took place in October 1952 in Venice with strong international participation. Delegates of eight different countries were discussing the possibility of an international cooperation of Judges. The President of the Italian Association of Judges Ernesto Battaglini then supported an international organ composed of national associations in the form of a parent organization. This proposal was accepted enthusiastically. The managing committee of the Italian Association was charged with the elaboration of concrete proposals.

In May 1953 in an international meeting of judges which was held in Rouen an agreement in all essential points was achieved; the Austrian delegation agreed on behalf of the Association of Austrian Judges to prepare the meeting of foundation.

This meeting took place from 4 to 6 September 1953 in Salzburg - Judges' association of six countries were represented by delegates: Brazil, Germany, France, Italy, Luxemburg and Austria. Judges from Belgium, Ireland and the Saarland participated as observers.

The opening ceremony was celebrated on 4 September by the President of the Austrian Association Karl Wahle in Knight's Hall

of Salzburg Residency. In his enthusiastically acclaimed speech Mr. Wahle expressed his great pleasure that after all judges of free countries have started to associate in a global organization. He was dealing with the different reasons for such an association and focused his statements on two main points: Firstly, that a legal act only being in accordance with the eternal merely compulsory ethical principles of law can count on common and therewith international recognition; secondly, that without independent judges no democracy can exist.

In the afternoon of Sept. 4 in the Estates Hall of the Residence the deliberations on the statutes began and were continued on Sept. 5.

On Sept. 6 in the closing meeting of the delegates the statut of foundation was signed. The text was submitted in German, French and Italian, in case of doubts the text in Italian should prevail.

Following, the first meeting of the Central Council was called by Mr. Wahle in order to elect functionaries. Ernesto Battaglini (Italy) was elected president of the association, Vice-presidents became Edgard Costa (Brazil), Otto Konrad (Germany), Jean Reliquet (France) and Karl Wahle (Austria).

Pietro Pascalino (Italy) was elected Secretary General, his Deputy became Domenico Di Genaro (Italy).

The seat of the Association should be located in Rome where also the First International Congress of Judges should be held.

The tough course of enlargement of the Association from modest size up to worldwide extent was followed successfully in particular thanks to the unremitting work of the Secretary General Pietro Pascalino.

The first common Meeting of the Central Council and the (three) Study Commissions in the history of the Union was held in Salzburg from 22 to 24 September 1966. Therewith already judges coming from 20 countries participated. The Associations of Belgium, Greece, Japan, Lebanon, Marocco, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Tunesia and Great Britain had come along. In the meeting Uruguay was admitted, the application for membership of other associations in particular from Scandinavia, Switzerland and South America was forthcoming.

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