



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

Website: www.icj-cij.org

Press Release

Unofficial

No. 2014/3
3 February 2014

Mr. Philippe Couvreur re-elected Registrar of the International Court of Justice

THE HAGUE, 3 February 2014. At a private meeting held today, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) re-elected Mr. Philippe Couvreur, of Belgian nationality, to the post of Registrar, for a third term of office.

In accordance with Article 22 of the Rules of Court, he has been re-elected for a term of seven years as from 10 February 2014.

Having joined the Court in 1982 as special assistant to the Registrar and Deputy-Registrar, Mr. Couvreur rose to the rank of Secretary, then First Secretary of the Court in the Legal Department, of which he became Principal Legal Secretary in 1995. He was elected Registrar of the Court on 10 February 2000 and re-elected on 8 February 2007.

Mr. Couvreur has lectured in public international law at various universities, including the Université Catholique de Louvain, and is the author of numerous publications on the Court.

The functions of the Registrar are defined by the Rules of Court (Article 26). The Registrar assists the Court in the exercise of its judicial function and is responsible for diplomatic relations between the Court and States. He is also responsible for all departments of the Registry.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York. The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States (its judgments have binding force and are without appeal for the parties concerned); and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. Independent of the United Nations Secretariat, it is assisted by a Registry, its own international secretariat, whose activities are both judicial and diplomatic, as well as administrative. The official languages of the Court are French and English. Also known as the “World Court”, it is the only court of a universal character with general jurisdiction.

The ICJ, a court open only to States for contentious proceedings, and to certain organs and institutions of the United Nations system for advisory proceedings, should not be confused with the other — mostly criminal — judicial institutions based in The Hague and adjacent areas, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY, an ad hoc court created by the Security Council), the International Criminal Court (ICC, the first permanent international criminal court, established by treaty, which does not belong to the United Nations system), the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL, an independent judicial body composed of Lebanese and international judges, which is not a United Nations tribunal and does not form part of the Lebanese judicial system), or the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA, an independent institution which assists in the establishment of arbitral tribunals and facilitates their work, in accordance with the Hague Convention of 1899).

Information Department:

Mr. Andrey Poskakukhin, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department (+31 (0)70 302 2336)

Mr. Boris Heim, Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2337)

Ms Joanne Moore, Associate Information Officer (+31 (0)70 302 2394)

Ms Genoveva Madurga, Administrative Assistant (+31 (0)70 302 2396)