



## Looking towards the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting



Dear Colleagues,

2024 is really an intensive year for IAJ. New challenges to judicial independence are arising in every part of the world, as you may be able to understand by reading this newsletter and regularly consulting the news that we publish almost every day in our web site.

The annual meeting in Cape Town (South Africa), on 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October will set a landmark in our ongoing fight for the victory of the Rule of Law in national and international relations. We managed to secure the attendance of Prof. Margaret Satterthwaite, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. We shall give her the floor during the first meeting of the Central Council, on October, 19<sup>th</sup>. Our idea is to have a “time slot” dedicated to her, in order not only to allow her to speak about her Office’s

activities, but also to stimulate our member associations to submit to her the most worrying problems currently affecting their judiciaries. For this purpose, we need attentively to prepare this session in the meetings of the four Regional Groups on October, 18<sup>th</sup>. Presidents of the Groups have already agreed, during the last meeting of the Presidency Committee in Dubrovnik, to dedicate part of the Regional Groups meetings in Cape Town to analyze the most serious threats to judicial independence in the five continents, so that the results of such debates within our four Regional Groups will be presented by the respective Presidents to Prof. Margaret Satterthwaite during her intervention.

A vote on proposed statutory amendments is also foreseen for Cape Town. You will receive in the next few weeks the proposed texts, aiming at modifying our Statutes on subjects like Termination of IAJ membership upon written request to the Presidency Committee, Resignations or premature endings of IAJ’s Officials, Monitoring of IAJ member associations, IAJ Honorary Presidents and the Council of Honorary Presidents, and Financing of the IAJ. A vote will also take place on the proposal for Regulations of the IAJ Assistance Fund for Judges (to be approved by the IAJ Central Council upon the proposal of the Presidency Committee, however, not to be enshrined in the IAJ Statutes).

No vote on new prospective members is foreseen for Cape Town. However, we have started and/or continued contact with a number of associations which are not yet IAJ members. Some of their representatives will be in attendance in South Africa as observers and we really do hope to be able to welcome them as members in 2025. Special attention will be devoted to areas (like Africa or Asia) where still many countries are not yet represented in our world wide judicial family. One of the problems we have to face is that in several legal systems judicial associations do not exist. The IAJ has been spending a lot of energy on these issues, elaborating a manual containing essential information on how to set up associations of judges (see <https://www.iaj-uim.org/iuw/documents/founding-an-association-of-judges/?wpdmdl=152988&refresh=6682a530f3cae1719838000>). This work has been so far of help in Countries like Fiji Islands, India, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, to quote only a few examples of the “new” judiciaries we have contacted so far, in places where associations of judges do (or did) not exist.

In Cape Town an international conference will take as well place, on the subject of the use of IA in the judicial activity.

A subject of particular interest to be discussed by the Central Council will surely be IAJ’s initiative and call to the United Nations to name January 11<sup>th</sup> the “International Day of Judicial Independence” in remembrance of the “1000 Robes March” and to honour judges who bravely defend the rule of law worldwide. This idea has already been strongly endorsed by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Prof. Satterthwaite (see: <https://www.iaj-uim.org/iuw/un-special-rapporteurs-post-on-iajs-initiative-about-the-international-day-of-judicial-independence/>).

Once again we invite all IAJ member associations to send delegates to Cape Town. Just in case of absolute impossibility of physically attending the meeting, please don’t forget to give a written proxy (an e-mail message is enough) to another association and send it to us.

Looking forward to seeing you very soon in Cape Town, I remain yours sincerely,



*Giacomo Oberto  
Secretary-General of the IAJ*

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## MEETING OF THE PRESIDENCY COMMITTEE IN DUBROVNIK (June 2024)



On June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, the Presidency Committee of the IAJ met in Dubrovnik (Croatia). The Committee discussed some of the issues to be submitted to the Central Council in Cape Town in October.

In particular the subjects of the proposals to alter IAJ Statutes, IAJ membership fees, activities report, prospective applications for membership, monitoring procedure, meetings of next years were thoroughly discussed. As far as the statutory proposals are concerned, the Presidency Committee dealt with following items: Termination of IAJ membership upon written request to the Presidency Committee, Resignations or premature endings of IAJ's Officials, Monitoring of IAJ member associations, IAJ Honorary Presidents and Council of Honorary Presidents, Financing of IAJ. A final text was elaborated upon proposal of the Secretariat-General, discussed and finally approved by the President and the Committee. The Secretariat-General was tasked to distribute the proposals to all member associations in due course, in order to allow a vote on them by the Central Council in Cape Town. A vote will also take place on the proposal of Regulations of the IAJ Assistance Fund for Judges: the current proposal has been approved by the Presidency Committee in Dubrovnik and will be submitted to the IAJ Central Council in Cape Town (the document, however, will not be enshrined in the IAJ Statutes).

As for the budget, the Presidency Committee approved the proposal elaborated by the Secretariat-General on the increase of membership fees, due to inflation, considering that such fees were increased for the last time more than twenty years ago.

Secretary-General Oberto informed as well the Presidency Committee about the relations with the judiciaries of Countries which are not yet members, such as Burundi, Ghana, Honduras, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Information was also provided on the candidatures by a number of national associations to host future IAJ annual meetings. For this purpose, and also in order to organise the planning of IAJ's future activities, the Presidency Committee tasked the Secretariat-General to send a message to all members, asking them to send possible applications for the organisation of annual meetings for the years to come, within the deadline of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Among other things, the Presidency Committee discussed also about the participation of U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers in the annual meeting of Cape Town and was informed by Secretary-General Oberto about the initiatives taken in order to name January 11<sup>th</sup> the "International Day of Judicial Independence" in remembrance of the "1000 Robes March" and to honour judges who bravely defend the rule of law worldwide.

The Committee decided as well to award to the American Bar Association – Rule of Law Initiative (ROLI) the IAJ's "Judicial Independence Award". The ceremony for the delivery of the prize will be held during the second session of the Central Council meeting in Cape Town, on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2024.

At the end of the meeting, the Presidency Committee enjoyed the exceptional hospitality of the Croatian Association of Judges and in particular of IAJ President Duro Sessa, who hosted a dinner at his place in Dubrovnik.



## MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES – WARSAW (April 2024)



On 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, in Warsaw (Poland) the mid-year meeting of the European Association of Judges took place. In attendance were the IAJ President, Mr. Duro Sessa, the IAJ First Vice-President, Mr. Walter Barone, the EAJ President, Mr. Mikael Sjoberg, the IAJ Vice-presidents and members of the EAJ Board, Ms. Sabine Matejka and Mr. Roland Kempfle, the Honorary Presidents, Mr. José Manuel Igreja Matos, Mr. Gerhard Reissner, Mrs. Maja Tratnik, Mr. Gunter Woratsch as well as the delegates of 38 member associations.

Vice-President Kempfle mentioned the works of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) that offered to take up suggestions from judges about its programs. He therefore invited the delegates to share their views with him, who will act as point of contact with the EJTN.

Vice-President Matejka announced that the forum of the legal professions would take place, in hybrid format, in November this year on the topic “improving delivery of justice through innovations”. Ms. Matejka added she was also appointed member of the SATURN group within the CEPEJ that is now working on a new case-weighting tool and foresees a tool on court management and the potential effects of artificial intelligence under the Presidency of IAJ Secretary-General Giacomo Oberto.

The IAJ President, Mr. Sessa, pointed out that also the CCJE was deeply engaged on the situation of the judiciary in Poland. This year, the Committee is engaged on the issue of disciplinary proceedings against judges, including vetting. There has been a meeting in Rome at the beginning of the month and the next meeting will take place in July. Mr. Sessa encouraged the delegates to get in contact with their national representatives in the CCJE and to provide inputs for the drafting of the opinion, which will have a capital importance in Europe.

The assembly dealt with current problems of the judiciary in Europe and adopted the following resolutions on:

- [Hungary](#);
- [Italy](#);
- [Slovenia](#);
- [Spain](#).

Honorary President Igreja Matos and Mr. Murat Durmaz presented two initiatives aimed at ensuring that the former President of YARSAV, Mr. Murat Arslan, may enjoy a fair procedure for the decision about his conditional release, that until now was rejected on no grounds.

The first initiative was the adoption of a statement by which the EAJ as a whole urged the Turkish authorities to release Mr. Arslan immediately. The Assembly unanimously approved the [statement](#).

The second initiative was the proposal that each and any EAJ member addresses a letter to the Turkish Minister of Justice asking him to intervene promptly and ensure that Mr. Arslan is afforded a fair interview and decision regarding his conditional release. Mr. Durmaz drafted a template that the associations may use as such or modify. Following this initiative an *ad hoc* page (“Free Murat Arslan!”) has been created in the IAJ’s web site, gathering all the solidarity initiatives on this initiative: <https://www.iaj-uim.org/iuw/free-murat-arслан/>.



## MEETING OF THE ANAO REGIONAL GROUP – ON LINE (May 2024)



The Asian, North American and Oceanian Group met via ZOOM on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

The meeting was attended by 22 delegates, across a wide range of time zones. The assembly discussed the current problems of the judiciary in those countries; the issues related to budget and membership annual fees and the proposal to create a Fund to assist Judges and prosecutors affected by governmental interference with the independent exercise of their duties, but only with respect to judges.

The President of the Lebanese Association spoke to the Group about the pressing needs of judges in that Country. He put those needs in the three categories of the institutional, financial, and political. Institutionally and politically, the judges remain under pressure from the executive branch. The Minister of Justice is frequently oppositional to whatever they seek to achieve.

Joanna Seybert, IAJ Representative to the United Nations, reported on the status of efforts to name January 11 the International Day of Judicial Independence following up our outreach to the UN Special Rapporteur. As Ms. Margaret Satterthwaite indicated, a proposal needs to be forthcoming from a government; then there should be a co-ordinated campaign of support. Mona Lynch of Canada, a delegate to ANAO, is also an active member of the International Association of Women Judges. This is relevant because the IAWJ was successful in having the UN Declare an International Day of Women.

## MEETING OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL GROUP – MONROVIA (May 2024)



On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 the opening ceremony of the mid-year meeting of the African Group of the IAJ took place in Monrovia (Liberia) under the organisation of the National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia.

The Ceremony was presided by the Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia. In attendance were, beside local authorities, the IAJ President Duro Sessa (online) and the Secretary-General Giacomo Oberto.

The meeting of the Group was presided by IAJ Vice President Marcelle Kuassi, President of the African Group of the IAJ. In attendance of the Group's meeting were delegates from 13 member associations, as well as representatives of two observers countries (Ghana and Sierra Leone). Beside the mid-year meeting of the Group, the African Group of the IAJ, in co-operation with the National Association of Trial Judges of Liberia, held an international conference on the subject: *"The Judiciary in Contemporary Times: Dispensing Justice in the New Information Age."*





## MEETING OF THE IBERO-AMERICAN GROUP – Buenos Aires (May 2024)



On 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2024, in Buenos Aires (Argentina) the mid-year meeting of the Ibero American Group of the IAJ started. In attendance were 16 member associations from Latin American countries.

The meeting took place under the presidency of IAJ First Vice President, President of the IBA Group, Mr. Walter Barone, with the attendance of the IAJ President, Mr. Duro Sessa, of the Secretary-General of the IAJ, Mr. Giacomo Oberto and of the Deputy Secretary-General and Treasurer Mr. Galileo D'Agostino.

The meeting dealt with current problems of the judiciary in Latin America; information was also provided by the Group's President over the current process of monitoring of IAJ member associations, on issues related to budget and membership annual fees, as well as on the envisaged alterations of the IAJ Statutes, to be voted in Cape Town next October.

The Assembly also discussed the preparation of the next annual IAJ meeting in South Africa.



# RECENT ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES OF THE IAJ AND REGIONAL GROUPS



## Open letter on the situation of the judiciary in Bulgaria

On 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, the 4 main European Associations of Judges (Association of European Administrative Judges, AEAJ; the European Association of Judges, EAJ; Judges for Judges and *Magistrats Européens pour la Démocratie et les Libertés*, MEDEL), signed a letter on the situation of the judiciary in Bulgaria.

The letter was sent to Ms. Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights (CoE) and to Mr. Didier Reynders, European Commissioner for Justice: [letter](#).

On 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 the Vice-President of the European Commission, Vera Jourova, sent a [reply](#).

## Joint press release of IAJ-EAJ, Medel, AEAJ and Judges for Judges on the court order of the General Court about Poland

The four European associations and organisations of Judges (EAJ, Medel, AEAJ, Judges for Judges) are disappointed by the order of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 of the Grand Chamber dismissing the actions brought by them against the Council decision approving the recovery and resilience plan for Poland as inadmissible. The Press release is available here: [Press release](#).

## Free Murat Arslan!

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2024 the IAJ General Secretariat received a message from the Turkish colleague Murat Durmaz, informing us about the denial from Turkish authorities of the application of the Turkish law which would allow to Murat Arslan to be finally freed after 8 years of harsh and unjust imprisonment. Also on behalf of the IAJ President and of the Presidency Committee of the IAJ, of the President of the EAJ and of the EAJ Board, we ask all IAJ and EAJ member associations to kindly spread this message among judges, prosecutors, authorities and organizations of their respective Countries, in order to make pressure on the Turkish authorities for immediate conditional release of Murat Arslan, a true champion of judicial independence, founder and President of YARSAV, Václav Havel Human Rights Prize in 2017. [Click here](#) for more information.

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## Free Murat Arslan



### **Statement in support of judicial independence in Ecuador**

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 a statement in support of judicial independence in Ecuador was issued by the Group, due to a statement issued by the Attorney General on December 16<sup>th</sup>, that appeared to intend to intimidate the judges who acted in a particular case mentioned there.

### **Seminar on fight against corruption and safety of judges**

On February 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 a Seminar about fight against corruption and safety of judges that took place in Lisbon, Coimbra and Porto City, Portugal, jointly organized by the Association of Portuguese Judges and the IBA Group.

### **Restart of talks to the current President of the Association of Judges of Honduras**

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 the process of application for admission of the Association of Honduras to the IAJ restarted. It was followed by the appointment of Judge Ruby Ibarra, President of the Association of Panama, to prepare the admission report together with Judge Francisco Silla (Spain).

### **Statement in defence of the autonomy of the National Council of Justice of Peru**

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 the IBA Group issued a statement in defence of the autonomy of the “Junta Nacional de Justicia del Perú” (National Council of Justice of Peru), considering the approval of the final report of the permanent commission of the Congress of Peru, with a proposal to dismiss all members of the Council and remove them immediately.

### **Seminar about safety of judges**

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, IBA Group President and IAJ First Vice President Walter Barone presented a lecture at the seminar about safety of judges organized by the Association of Judges of Ecuador, with the participation of the Association of Judges of Paraguay and the Association of Judges of Bolivia.





### **Situation of the judiciary in Tunisia**

On 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 the Executive board of the Association of Tunisian Magistrates, member of the International Association of Judges, released two statements on:

the current situation of the judiciary in Tunisia: [EN](#), [FR](#)

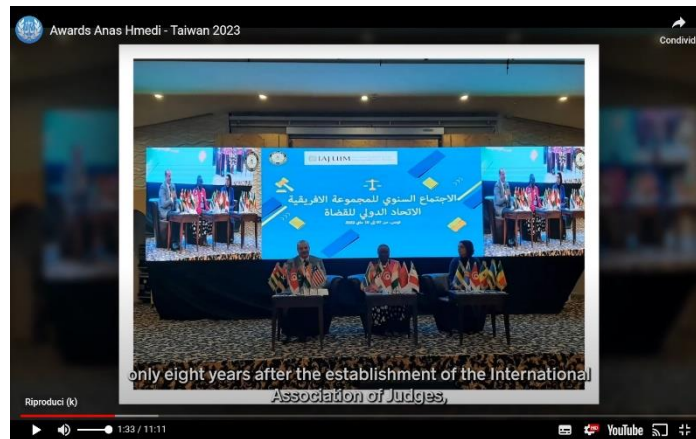
the attack on the judges' right to form associations: [EN](#), [FR](#)

### **Resolution on Tunisia**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024 a resolution, in English and French, was adopted by the African Group following the ban on the Tunisian delegation by the Tunisian Ministry of Justice from leaving the country and participating in the annual meeting of the African Group of the International Association of Judges in Monrovia: [English](#) and [French](#).

### **IAJ Presidency Committee endorsement resolution on Tunisia**

On 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 the Presidency Committee of the International Association of Judges (IAJ) endorses the recent resolution on Tunisia, adopted by the African Group, regional group of the IAJ: [resolution](#).



### **Statement on Yemen**

On 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, after receiving an appeal from the Yemen Judges Club denouncing a state of extreme concern for the life and freedom of one of their fellow judges and asking to condemn and record this crime against the judges in Yemen against its perpetrators, the President of the IAJ, Mr. Duro Sessa, together with the IAJ vice President and President of the ANAO Group, Ms. Allyson Duncan released a statement: [statement](#)

### **Statement on Kiribati**

On April 2024, the IAJ issued a statement on Kiribati. The IAJ watches with grave concern the deepening crisis involving the suspension of Mr. Justice David Lambourne of the High Court of Kiribati, an Australian citizen and the integrity of the Kiribati judicial system: [statement](#).

## RECENT ACTIVITIES AND CO-OPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES

### IAJ's proposal to the United Nations to name January 11<sup>th</sup> the "International Day of Judicial Independence"

Following a request of Vice President Duncan to create a group to advance the goal of having the UN designate January 11<sup>th</sup> as the International Day of Judicial Independence in honour of the 1000 Robes March, the Secretariat-General set up a list serve which includes the names on the email sent by Vice President Duncan.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of March, 2024, an on-line meeting took place with the UN Special Rapporteur, Prof. Margaret Satterthwaite. In attendance were: the President of the IAJ, Mr Duro Sessa; the First Vice President and President of the IBA group, Mr Walter Barone; the IAJ Vice President and President of the ANAO Group, Ms Allyson Duncan; IAJ Vice President Roland Kemple; the Secretary-General of the IAJ, Mr Giacomo Oberto, the IAJ Honorary President, Mr José Igreja Matos; the IAJ representatives at UN seats: Ms Johanna Seybert (New York), IAJ Honorary President Mr Gerhard Reissner (Vienna), and Mr Pierre Zappelli (Geneva).

The aim of this important meeting was to discuss about the petition to propose the UN to name January 11<sup>th</sup> "International Day of Judicial Independence – 1000 Robes March". During the event Prof. Satterthwaite showed her full support and declared her availability to promote our initiative.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers expressed again her full support for the IAJ's proposal while attending the UN Human Rights Council in June and that a social media post has been prepared to promote this. Actually, on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2024, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Prof. Margaret Satterthwaite, published on X a [post](#); a [news](#) on this post was published in the IAJ's web site.

The President of the CCJE, Judge Leonie Reynolds (Ireland), supported as well our initiative for the establishment by the United Nations of 11<sup>th</sup> January as the "International Day of Judicial Independence – 1000 Robes March": [here the full article](#).



### Centro Internazionale Magistrati "Luigi Severini"

In November 2023 Secretary-General Oberto was contacted by Prof. Daniela Piana, on behalf of the "International Centre Luigi Severini." This organisation is an Italian study Centre on the judiciary, with whom we have co-operated in the past.

This is their web site: <https://www.centrointernazionalemagistratiseverini.it/>

The Centre, which is composed of judges and university professors, expressed the intention to organise an international Forum in 2024 in a hybrid way (online and in person), on the theme of comparison of experiences on the subject of judicial independence (also taking in account the role played by the High Councils for the Judiciary). The prospective title would be: "Making Impartiality effective. Jurisdictional activity and balancing of powers in a comparative experience".

Mr. Oberto put therefore Prof. Piana in contact with the President of the IAJ's First Study Commission (Judge Huff, USA). As the initiative should be as well under the aegis of the IAJ, of course also the participation (physical or online) of the IAJ representatives should be envisaged.



### Meeting of the IAJ President with the Slovenian Judges' Association

On the 19 of January, following an invitation of the Slovenian Judges' Association (member association of the IAJ), the President of the IAJ, Mr. Duro Sessa, attended a meeting with the Association Board in Ljubljana, where the Slovenian colleagues explained in detail the situation and their demands. In Slovenia, in fact, judges decided to stop their court activities for 10 days as a warning to the Government and to the public that the situation with their salaries is unbearable.

Despite the clear decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia that the salaries of judges are too low and contradict the responsibility of judges, the principles of independence of judges and separation of powers, as well as the Constitution, the government is not implementing the decision of the Constitutional Court. The deadline for implementation was on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 and the government has not yet offered a solution. The Prime Minister has publicly stated that, despite the constitutional decision, the issue of judges' salaries will be resolved in two, three, four months as part of the changes to the public sector salary system. The Minister of Finance has just signed an agreement with the public sector union in which the union guarantees not to strike until September 2024, on the condition that no one paid from the state budget (power holders – "functionaries" included) will receive a salary increase until then.

After the meeting, a press conference was held: President Sessa and the President of Slovenian Association, Ms. Vesna Bregant Rakocevic, answered to the questions of the members of the press. He explained and advocated principles in IAJ Charter and other international documents, not only in regard to the proper remuneration for judges, but also for their freedom of speech and action when they have to stand up for their independence. President Sessa gave as well an extensive interview to the Croatian largest daily newspaper "DELO".



### Questionnaire on the use of psychological Tests for Judges

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Prof. Marco Fabri of the Bologna branch of the Institute of Informatics and Judicial Systems of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR), has proposed to Secretary-General of the IAJ, Mr. Oberto, to circulate among IAJ National Associations a very short questionnaire on the use (or non-use) of psychometric/psycho-aptitude/psychological tests in the recruitment/selection/assessment of judges.

You can read [here the results](#).

The results of the IAJ's survey were as well presented by Secretary-General Oberto during a seminar on the issue of such kind of tests jointly organised by the Italian association of judges and prosecutors (A.N.M.) and the Faculty of Law of the University of Milan on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

[Here](#) the text of Mr. Oberto's presentation (in Italian). [Here](#) the link to the full online recording of the event.



### Relations to the UINL

Last april Mr. Oberto was contacted by the UINL, the International Union of Notaries, with which IAJ has an agreement for co-operation on issues of common interest between judges and notaries. The UINL is planning to have its next international congress in Berlin, on 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October, 2025. The subjects of this event should be, on one side, I) the use of new technologies for notaries, and II) dejudicialisation, on the other side.

Notaries would like to develop this second topic together with us, so to have on each sub-topic the view of a notary and of a judge.

These would be the sub-items of this subjects, which should be the titles of about 4 or 5 round tables:

1. Family (parenthood, successions, divorces, minors, protection of incapable people) [what competencies could be deferred from judges to notaries in these matters];
2. Home (property transfers, enforcement in real estates) [what competencies could be deferred from judges to notaries in these matters];
3. Mediation and conciliation, payment injunctions [what competencies could be deferred from judges to notaries in these matters];
4. Technologies and notarial profession; role of notaries in evidence taking [what competencies could be deferred from judges to notaries in these matters];
5. Role of notaries in the fight against recycling of “dirty” capitals [what competencies could be deferred from judges to notaries in these matters].

Mr. Oberto has been tasked to take care of the subject sub a). IAJ Vice-President Roland Kempfle declared himself available for point b) and will try to find also another German colleague for one of the other points.



## **CEPEJ 17<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Pilot Courts**

The CEPEJ (European Commission on the Efficiency of Justice of the Council of Europe) organised the 17<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of its Network of Pilot courts in Mechelen, Belgium, on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024, upon the invitation of the Antwerp Court of First Instance and its President Bart Willocx. Paul Van Tigchelt, Minister of Justice of Belgium and Francesco DePasquale, President of the CEPEJ opened the meeting. During various workshops, participants exchanged their experiences concerning the fight against judicial backlogs, the evaluation of the quality of judges' work, the use of generative artificial intelligence in judicial systems as well as tools for measuring the workload in courts. The CEPEJ-STAT database containing data resulting from the evaluation of European judicial systems was also presented. The conclusions of the meeting were presented by Paul Dhaeyer, President of the Commercial Court of Brussels, Belgium. 35 pilot courts from 28 countries took part in the meeting. Numerous personalities from the Belgian judicial community were also present throughout the meeting. The Network is a platform for exchanging practices in the field of efficiency and quality of justice. It is also a forum for reflection on the work in progress within the CEPEJ and the implementation of its tools. The EAJ was represented by the IAJ Vice-president Sabine Matejka and IAJ Secretary-General Giacomo Oberto, in their respective qualities of member and President of the CEPEJ-SATURN Working Group.

