

**Court of Conciliation and Arbitration  
within the OSCE**

**BUREAU OF THE COURT**

The Bureau of the Court is composed of the President, the Vice-President and three other members and as well as of four alternate members. The Bureau is elected by the conciliators and arbitrators appointed by their respective State party. The current Bureau has been elected in October 2019 for a six-year term. The Bureau is the permanent executive body of the Court and ensures the operation of the Court and the duties entrusted to it under the Convention, the Financial Protocol and the Rules of procedure.

**President :**

**Emmanuel DECAUX** - France, conciliator  
Professor emeritus, University of Paris II - Panthéon-Assas  
President of the René Cassin Foundation – International Institute of Human Rights

**Members:**

*from among the conciliators*

**Christian TOMUSCHAT** (Germany)  
Professor emeritus, Faculty of Law,  
Humboldt University, Berlin  
Former President of the Court

**Verica TRSTENJAK\*** (Slovenia)  
Professor of European Law, University of  
Vienna and Ljubljana, Former Advocate  
General at the Court of Justice of the EU

*from among the arbitrators*

**Erkki KOURULA – Vice-President** (Finland)  
Former Judge at the International Criminal  
Court

**Vasilka SANCIN** (Slovenia)  
Head of the Department of International Law,  
University of Ljubljana  
Member of the UN Human Rights Committee

**Alternate Members:**

*from among the conciliators*

**Anne RAMBERG** (Sweden)  
Attorney-at-Law,  
Former Secretary-General of the Swedish  
Bar Association

*from among the arbitrators*

**Mats MELIN** (Sweden)  
Former Judge and Chairman,  
Supreme Administrative Court

**Silja VÖNEKY** (Germany)  
Professor of Public International Law,  
Comparative Law and Ethics of Law,  
University of Freiburg

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## Bureau of the Court - Biographical Notes

- in alphabetical order -



**Emmanuel DECAUX**  
President

Emmanuel Decaux is Professor emeritus of the University of Paris II – Panthéon-Assas, where he taught public international law and international human rights law. He was also Director of the Doctorate School of international law, European law, International Relations and Comparative Law. In April 2021, he has been appointed President of the René Cassin Foundation – International Institute of Human Rights. He has published on topics of public international law, international organizations, with a focus on peaceful settlement of disputes and human rights. He is also a member of the Advisory Board of the *Security and Human Rights Monitor* publication.

In addition to his academic career, Emmanuel Decaux held several functions within the United Nations. He was a member and then President of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances between 2011 and 2019. Prior to that, he was a member of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and a member of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

Emmanuel Decaux also participated as a member of the French delegation to the three meetings of the Human Dimension Conference (1989-1991) and to the first Human Dimension Implementation meetings organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw. Later he was nominated as an expert as part of the framework of the Moscow Mechanism on Human Dimension on behalf of which he acted twice (in 2003 and 2011) as Rapporteur.



## **Erkki KOURULA**

Vice-President

Judge Kourula holds two degrees (LL.M. and LL.Lic.) in law from the University of Helsinki and a doctorate in international law from the University of Oxford.

He was appointed as a judge of first instance in Finland.

After holding various research positions in international law, in 1982-1983 he was professor of international law at the University of Lapland.

He later worked in various roles within the Finnish government, including as Director-General of Legal Affairs in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador to the Council of Europe, and as Legal Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in New York. He was also agent for Finland before the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Communities. Judge Kourula was Head of the Finnish delegation and coordinator for jurisdictional issues at the Rome Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

He was Appeals Judge and twice President of the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court in 2003- 2015.



## **Mats MELIN**

Alternate Member of the Bureau

Mats Melin was President of the Supreme Administrative Court of Sweden from 2011 until his retirement in 2018. Between 2004 and 2010, he was Chief Parliamentary ombudsman, elected by the Swedish parliament. Prior to that, he was a Justice of the Supreme Administrative Court (2001-2003) and Presiding Judge at the Court of Appeal in Stockholm (1999-2001). In addition, he was a member of the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) from 2015 to 2018 and an elected member of the Bureau of the CCJE from 2016 to 2018. Before joining the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg from 1995 to 1999 as legal secretary, Mats Melin held various positions in Swedish courts and government departments, inter alia as legal adviser at the Ministry of Justice (1987-1994).

In 2015, he was appointed as a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and in 2016 as an arbitrator at the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

Mats Melin holds an LLM of the University of Uppsala, obtained in 1980.



## **Anne RAMBERG**

Alternate Member of the Bureau

Mrs Ramberg was a practicing lawyer until 2000, when she was appointed Secretary General of the Swedish Bar Association, a position she held for twenty years. Prior to that appointment she served as Chair of the Stockholm Section and Council Member of the Swedish Bar Association.

Her current positions include serving as ad hoc judge at the European Court of Human Rights, Co-Chair of the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), member of the Judicial Appointments Council, Chair of the Stockholm Center for the Rights of the Child, board member of the Swedish section of the Nordic Conference of Jurists, member of the board of Civil Right Defenders, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Southern Africa Litigation Center, International Bar Association Management Board. She is a trustee in IBA Eyewitness project. She is also a board member of a prestigious law research foundation and a member of the Advisory Council of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC).

Mrs Ramberg has held several national and international positions in the legal area such as member of the Board of the Stockholm University, member of the Ethics Advisory Council of the National Police Board, member of the Swedish Press Council, conciliator to the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the OSCE, Chair of Chief Executives of European Bar Associations, (CEEBA), Co-Chair of the Rule of law Action Group and member of the International Bar Association (IBA) Management Board, member of the Council on Basic Values established by the Swedish government, member of the Advisory Council Swedish Economic Crime Authority, alternate to the Appeal Board for Aid for Credit Institutions, Council member and Treasurer of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), Council member of the CEELI Institute, board member of several trusts and other associations such as, Micael Bindefeld Foundation in Memory of the Holocaust, the Association for Legislative Theory and of one of the most prestigious Law Libraries in Sweden, council member of the IBA Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), IBAHRI TRUST, and the Rule of Law Forum. Mrs Ramberg has been appointed as an expert in several governmental legislative commissions. She was the editor of the periodical magazine published by the Swedish Bar Association.

Anne Ramberg received her Law degree (LLB) from the University of Stockholm in 1976 and has written extensively on a variety of legal issues both in legal and general publications. Anne Ramberg holds H.M. the King's Medal for "distinguished contribution to the Swedish Judicial System."



**Vasilka SANCIN**  
Member of the Bureau

Vasilka Sancin is Professor of Public International Law, Head of the Department of International Law, Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law (Slovenia). She is also a member of the UN Human Rights Committee (2019-2022) and an expert for the OSCE Moscow mechanism on Human Rights. Among other professional affiliations, she is a President of the Slovene Branch and a member of the Executive Council of the International Law Association (ILA), a member of the UNODC Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) Initiative and the European Centre for Responsibility to Protect. She is, as an independent expert, a member of the National Inter-ministerial Commission for Human Rights, Inter-governmental working group on International Humanitarian Law and the Strategic Council of the Slovene Minister of Foreign Affairs. She teaches as a visiting professor or guest lecturer at numerous foreign institutions and is member of Editorial Boards of various legal journals and author or editor of numerous books and articles.



## **Christian TOMUSCHAT**

Former President – Member of the Bureau

Christian Tomuschat is Professor em. of the Faculty of Law of Humboldt University, Berlin. Education at the universities of Heidelberg and Montpellier. From 1972 to 1995 he was professor for constitutional and international law at the University of Bonn. He lectured at the Hague Academy of International Law in 1993 and 1999 (General Course). He was a member of the Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1977-1986) and of the International Law Commission (1985-1999, President in 1992). From 1997 to 1999, he coordinated the Commission for Historical Clarification in Guatemala. He served as judge on the Administrative Tribunal of the Inter-American Development Bank (1995-1997) and on the Administrative Tribunal of the African Development Bank (1999-2008). He became a member of the *Institut de droit international* in 1997. From September 2013 to October 2019, he discharged the functions of the President of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the OSCE. He is author of numerous books and articles. Among his latest publication is "Human Rights Between Idealism and Realism" (3<sup>rd</sup>. ed. Oxford 2014). He is also one of the co- editors and authors of the Commentary on the Statute of the ICJ (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford 2012).





## **Verica TRSTENJAK**

Member of the Bureau

Verica Trstenjak (national of Slovenia, based in Austria) is former Advocate General of the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg and a professor of European Union law. From 2004 to 2006 she was a judge at the General Court of the European Union in Luxembourg and from 2006 to 2012 an Advocate General of the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg (the highest legal position in EU) and she was advocate general also in cases concerning fundamental (economic) freedoms (e.g. free movement of goods, services, companies, capital in the EU), fundamental rights (asylum, fundamental social rights, judicial rights, right to property), consumer protection cases, intellectual property cases, state aid, public procurement, etc.

Since 2019 she is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague and also arbitrator on the list VIAC (Vienna International Arbitration Centre). Since 2017, she is a Member of the Management Board and since October 2017 also a Member of the Executive Board of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. She is also a member of the Advisory Board (comparable with arbitration) of the international organization Energy Community and an external scientific member of the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law.

She is Professor for European law in Austria and Slovenia (at University in Ljubljana and Maribor (partly) and at different LLM programmes (University of Vienna, Nova univerza - European Law Faculty in Slovenia), Sigmund Freud University in Vienna) and teaches European law at the summer schools (University of Salzburg, University of Innsbruck – university course in Alpbach). She has written expert opinions for law firms and arbitration in many cases concerning European law and legal protection in the EU. She has published several books and more than 300 articles (also with SSCI) and has been a lecturer at different universities (e.g. Zurich, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Luxemburg, Sydney, Montreal, Singapore, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Kyoto, Seoul, Nursultan) and at different international and European conferences (e.g. General reporter at the International Conference of Comparative Law in 2014, keynote speaker at the International Conference of Consumer Law in 2015). She is a member of editorial boards of several important legal journals, e.g. European Law Review. In Slovenia she was also State Secretary for Science and a member of the negotiation group for the Slovenian Membership in the European Union.





**Silja VÖNEKY**

Alternate Member of the Bureau

Silja Vöneky is Professor of Public International Law, Comparative Law and Ethics of Law, University of Freiburg and an associated member of the Institute für "Staatswissenschaft" and Philosophy of Law, University of Freiburg. She was a Visiting Fellow at Harvard Law School in 2015-2016. Currently she serves as a member of the German Federal Foreign Office's Public International Law Advisory Board, the Ethics Council of the Max-Planck-Society, and is appointed as arbitrator of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA).

Her areas of research include the international governance of scientific and technological innovations, the interdependence of ethics and law, as well as International Environmental Law, Humanitarian Law, International Security Law, and Human Rights Law.

Vöneky previously served as the Director of a Heidelberg Max Planck Research Group. She was appointed by the Federal Government as a member of the German Ethics Council and led the Council's Working Group on Biosecurity. Since 2001, Silja Vöneky has been a legal advisor to several German federal ministries and agencies.

Born in Germany, Vöneky studied Law and Philosophy of Law at the Universities of Freiburg, Bonn, Heidelberg, and Edinburgh (UK) and holds law degrees from the University of Heidelberg. She did her clerkship at the Kammergericht Berlin.