



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

His Excellency Mr Horst Köhler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, was received today at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea during his first visit in office to the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

President Köhler, who was accompanied by an official delegation consisting of the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency the Apostolical Nuntius Archbishop Erwin Josef Ender, the First Mayor of Hamburg, Mr Ole von Beust, the Senator of Justice of Hamburg, Mr Roger Kusch, and 140 members of the Diplomatic Corps, was welcomed by the President of the Tribunal, Judge Dolliver Nelson, the Vice-President of the Tribunal, Judge Budislav Vukas, and the Registrar of the Tribunal, Mr Philippe Gautier. He was escorted to the President's chambers where President Nelson introduced Judges Yankov, Anderson, Wolfrum, Marsit and Jesus and the Deputy Registrar of the Tribunal, Mr Doo young Kim. The visitor's book was then signed.



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The delegation then moved to the courtroom of the Tribunal, where President Nelson welcomed President Köhler to the Tribunal, describing the visit as "eloquent testimony of the unwavering support which the host country has always given the Tribunal" and reiterating how fitting the decision was to make the city of Hamburg with its rich maritime tradition the seat of the Tribunal. The President also recalled that Germany played an important part in the making of the new law of the sea.

After a general overview of the cases dealt with by the Tribunal to date, President Nelson pointed out that the Tribunal "has competence under the Convention to resolve a ... wide range of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, and remains ready and willing to do so", reflecting that as a new judicial body the twelve cases dealt with in the first eight years "represent only a chapter of its earliest beginnings".

The statement of the President was followed by a question and answer session and a reception.

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's websites: <http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org> and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms. Julia Pope at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227, Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245;
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