

General Assembly of the E.U.R.

Meeting of Rechtspfleger from Europe in Bucharest

A report written by Martin Haselmayer

On September the 15th 2011 the General Assembly of the European Union of Rechtspfleger started with the 4th set of the 9th symphony of Beethoven in Bucharest. Many high-level representatives of the Romanian politics and justice; the European Union and the CEPEJ of the Council of Europe were welcomed by the President Thomas Kappl.



Dr. Catalin Marian Predoiu
Minister of Justice of Romania

President of the Senate
Mircea Geoană

Thomas Kappl

A special welcome was given to the President of the Romanian Senate, Mircea Geoană, who spoke for European unity and against nationalistic and right-politically tendencies in front of the background of the financial and economic crises and the increasingly anti-European sentiment in many countries. In his view, Romania's future also depends on the future of Europe. Without a strong Justice, there would be no European dream. At the same time he campaigned in front of the assembled representatives of the press for a national understanding that the Romanian Justice does not have the financial resources they need for the fulfillment of all tasks.

Also present, the Romanian Minister of Justice Dr. Catalin Marian Predoiu reported about two major reforms which are in legislative process and will lead to the introduction of the Rechtspfleger and the court manager. He hopes that this will improve the efficiency in the context of European human rights convention to guarantee all citizens a fair and timely trial. These measures are also a first step towards the introduction of the Rechtspfleger in the sense of a European Rechtspfleger, as shown in the Green Paper of the EUR.

Ion Popescu, the chairman of the Romanian Association MERIDIAN, emphasized in his speech that it is the first time since the founding of the EUR in 1967 a General Assembly was held in an Eastern European country.

Eberhard Desch, who represented the German Federal Ministry of Justice in Bucharest, read a greeting from the Federal Minister of Justice Sabine Leutheusser Schnarrenberger who promised the E.U.R. to continue her full support for the introduction of a European Rechtspfleger in all European countries.

The waste of the Justice was in centre of the greeting address of John Stacey, President of the CEPEJ. He urged all participants of the General Assembly, acting against the waste of resources in the judiciary, which amounts in some countries up to 80% of the resources and staff.

All over the world there are people who have a common dream. The dream of improving the judicial system for benefit of all citizens. This has been his experience from the visit of more than 25 countries as president of the International Association for Court Administration, Jeffrey Apperson said, who has come the long way from Washington DC to participate in this General Assembly. The young generation in all countries around the world has recognized that a change is needed to solve the challenges of the future and to go on unflustered on the path of progress, leading to an advancement of these systems.

Numerous other greeting addresses ended the opening of the General Assembly on the morning of the first day. Thomas Kappl, the President thanked all the speakers of the EUR with the presentation of the new bounded edition of the Green Paper, which contains the translation of the itself in eight languages. In his speech he praised in particular the appearance of the President of the Romanian Senate and invited him to the extent possible to assist the Minister of Justice in the legislative process introducing a draft law establishing the Rechtspfleger in Romania. At the same time he stressed again the importance of the role of the Rechtspfleger in the judicial system and was pleased by the efforts of Romania, to adapt its judicial system for the challenges of the future by introducing the Rechtspfleger

The President of the Japanese Association of Rechtspfleger Sato took the opportunity in the General Assembly to thank the member countries for the many encouraging letters, which he received after the earthquake, the tsunami and the reactor accident in Fukushima. He described the current situation of the courts in the disaster areas, which were partially destroyed and must be rebuilt. He also thanked for the donation in the amount of 1.000, - € which was spent to the Japanese association as help. As an outward sign of thank Mr. Sato presented a flag under great applause with the Japanese label of solidarity.

The reports of the individual member associations presented the development of the profession of Rechtspfleger in each country. Unfortunately, not only progress, as is the case for example in Romania was signed, in Estonia for example only with the support of E.U.R. a bill of rights could be averted, that the absence of the Rechtspfleger in the local judicial system would have resulted. Overall, however, the Green Paper of the E.U.R. led to the introduction of a European Rechtspfleger and to an unprecedented dynamics in the development of the profession across Europe, so the conclusion of Thomas Kappl and all present Vice Presidents of the member countries and associate members Japan and South Korea.