



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

Press Release

JUDGE HELMUT TUERK ELECTED AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE TRIBUNAL

Hamburg, 2 October. Judge Helmut Tuerk (Austria) was today elected as Vice-President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea by the judges of the Tribunal for the period 2008 to 2011. Vice-President Tuerk has been a Member of the Tribunal since 2005 and replaces Judge Joseph Akl. The newly-elected President of the Tribunal, José Luis Jesus, conducted the election.

The Vice-President is elected for a period of three years and would assume the functions of the President in the event of a vacancy in the presidency or of the inability of the President to exercise the functions of the presidency.

Judge Helmut Tuerk

Born: Linz, Austria, 24 April 1941. **Education:** Dr. jur., University of Vienna (1963); College of Europe, Bruges (1963–1964). **Professional Experience:** Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs: International Law Department (1965–1967, 1972–1978), Consulate General Hong Kong (1967–1972, Acting Consul General 1971–1972), Deputy Legal Adviser (1977–1978), Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy Bonn (1978–1982), Legal Adviser, Head of International Law Department (1982–1993), Deputy Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs (1991–1993), Ambassador, United States of America, Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States, Ambassador, Commonwealth of The Bahamas (1993–1999), Director-General, Office of the Austrian Federal President (1999–2004); Member, Austrian National Security Council (2002–2004); Ambassador, Holy See, Sovereign Military Order of Malta and Republic of San Marino (2005–2006). **Member:** Advisor, Austrian Delegation to the UN General Assembly (1966–2004); Delegate, Legal Sub-Committee, UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (1973–1978); UN Seabed Committee (1973); Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (1974–1979, Deputy Head of Delegation 1976–1979); Agent of the Austrian Federal Government before the European Commission and the European Court for Human Rights (1982–1993); Head of Austrian delegation: UN Conference on the Succession of States in Respect of State Property, Archives and Debts (1983), CSCE-Meeting of Experts on Peaceful Settlement of

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Disputes (1984), 25th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of ICAO (1984), UN Conference on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations or between International Organizations (1986), International Conference on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988), Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (1989–1994), Informal consultations of the UN Secretary-General on the Law of the Sea (1993–1994), Assembly of the International Seabed Authority (2003–2005); Panel of Arbitrators, International Energy Agency Dispute Settlement Centre (1986–1993); Committee of Legal Advisers of the Council of Europe on Public International Law (Vice-Chairman, 1988–1989; Chairman, 1990–1992); Permanent Court of Arbitration (1988–2008); Chairman, 6th (Legal) Committee at the 44th session of the UN General Assembly (1989); Austrian Representative, Council of the International Seabed Authority (1996–1998); President, Meeting of States Parties of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1997–1998). **Publications:** "The land-locked Countries and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea" (together with G. Hafner), in: *Essays on the New Law of the Sea*, 1985; "The European Ministerial Conference on Human Rights", in: *Protecting Human Rights: The European Dimension, Studies in honour of Gerard J. Wiarda*, 1988; "Die Europäische Menschenrechtskonvention im internationalen Vergleich", in: *Österreich im Europarat, 1956–1986, Bilanz einer 30-jährigen Mitgliedschaft*, 1988; "Die europäischen Neutralen und die Europäischen Gemeinschaften", in: *Verantwortung in unserer Zeit – Festschrift für Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger*, 1990; "The Negotiation of a New Geneva-style Convention: a Government Lawyer's Perspective", in: *Environmental Protection and the Law of War: A 'Fifth Geneva' Convention on the Protection of the Environment in Time of Armed Conflict*, 1992; "Austrian-Soviet Round Table on the Protection of Human Rights", in: *Schriften des Österreichischen Instituts für Menschenrechte*, Vol. 4, 1992; "Österreichs Bemühungen zur Abschaffung der Todesstrafe", in: „Menschenrechte als politischer Auftrag“, "Focus", Band 7, *Schriftenreihe des ÖVP-Parlamentsklubs*, 1993; "Zur Errichtung eines Kriegsverbrechertribunals für das ehemalige Jugoslawien", in: *Für Staat und Recht, Festschrift für Herbert Schambeck*, 1994; "Neutralität und Mitgliedschaft bei den Vereinten Nationen", in: *Völkerrecht zwischen normativem Anspruch und politischer Realität, Festschrift für Karl Zemanek zum 65. Geburtstag*, 1994; *Österreich im Spannungsfeld von Neutralität und kollektiver Sicherheit*, Verlag Österreich, Juristische Schriftenreihe 109, 1997; "Die Wende 1989/90 und die Obsoleterklärung einiger Artikel des Staatsvertrags", in: *Der Österreichische Staatsvertrag 1955 – Internationale Strategie, rechtliche Relevanz, nationale Identität*, 2005; "Die Militärischen und Luftfahrt-Bestimmungen des Österreichischen Staatsvertrags und deren Obsoleszenz", in: *Staatsvertrag und immerwährende Neutralität Österreichs: Eine juristische Analyse*, 2007; "The Contribution of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to International Law", *Penn State International Law Review, Fall 2007 (26 Penn St. Int'l L. Rev. 289)*; "The Landlocked States and the Law of the Sea", *Revue belge de droit international, vol. XL, 2007-1*; "Combating Terrorism at Sea – the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation", *University of Miami International and Comparative Law Review* (to be published); "Combating Terrorism at Sea – the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation", in: *Legal Challenges in Maritime Security*, M.H. Nordquist, R. Wolfrum et al. (eds), 2008; Contributions on Montenegro and Trieste (to be published), *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law*.

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 Ritter or Ms Johanna van Kisfeld at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227, Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org