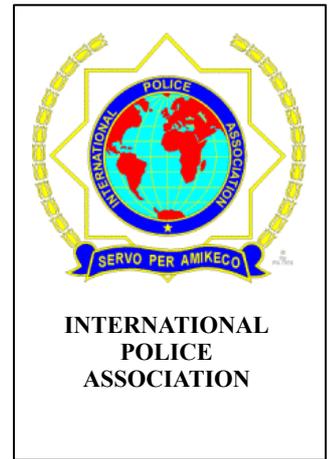


BUREAU EXECUTIF PERMANENT (ERC)

***International Commission for External Relations
Commission Internationale des Relations Extérieures
Internationale Kommission für Aussenbeziehungen
Comision para Relaciones Exteriores***

NGO in Consultative (Special) Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; in Consultative Status with the Council of Europe, the Organisation of American States and UNESCO; International NGO maintaining operational relations within EUROPOL.



QUARTERLY ERC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY / MARCH 2012

On 26 and 27 March 2012, the ERC Committee met in PARIS-PANTIN for a working session and study.

We participated in a formal meeting with the Directors of UNESCO, which will be a supplementary report.



GENEVA – SWITZERLAND **THULLIEZ Georges – UNITED NATIONS Representative**

Activities for the period January/March 2012:

Follow the following conferences:

- Rights of the Child - 1/16/2012 to 3/2/2012
- Council of Human Rights - 2/27/2012 to 3/23/2012
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - 13.02.2012 to 09.03.2012
- Participation at the general meeting of the committee IPA GENEVA 21/03/2012.
- I will attend also to the general meeting of the IPA to LUGANO SWITZERLAND (20 and 04/21/2012), during which I will give a presentation of the IPA ERC and my role within the UN GENEVA.
- Participation Group meeting at ERC PARIS - PANTIN 26 and March 27, 2012.

UN envoy urges universal ratification of treaty to end use of children in conflict



13 February 2012 –The United Nations envoy for

children and armed conflict today called for universal ratification of a treaty protocol that outlaws the use of minors to fight wars and encourages States to set 18 years as the minimum age for recruitment.

“So far, almost three fourths of the world has ratified this important treaty, but for a true universal moral consensus, we need the remaining 49 States to ratify,” said Radhika Coomaraswamy, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, in a statement to mark the 10th anniversary of the coming into force of the protocol.

The Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict of the Convention on the Rights of the Child also requires that States prevent individuals under the age of 18 from taking part directly in hostilities, and raises awareness of the obligation to criminalize recruitment and use of under-age girls and boys.

“Every country, big or small, with or without a standing army, at peace or in conflict, has a role to play in abolishing the inhumane practice of recruiting and using children in war,” said Ms. Coomaraswamy.

Organized crime in West Africa the focus of talks between UN envoy, Interpol

13 February 2012 –Transnational organized crime in West Africa, including illicit drug trafficking and the proliferation of illegal arms, as well as maritime piracy, dominated discussions today between a senior United Nations envoy and the head of the international police organization, Interpol.



At their meeting in Lyon, France, where Interpol is headquartered, Said Djinnit, head of the UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA), and Ronald K. Noble, Interpol’s Secretary General, stressed the importance of working jointly to efficiently address the increasingly complex transnational organized crime, which they said poses a serious threat to West Africa’s stability.

They underlined that Interpol’s expertise on information sharing through its high technology infrastructure was crucial to enabling national police services in the region to work together to tackle the problem.

They reviewed the latest achievements and challenges of the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) that is making efforts to combat organized crime.

The joint UN-Interpol project was launched in 2009 to support the Regional Action Plan of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to address the growing problem of illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and narcotics abuse in West Africa.

New UNICEF report to shine spotlight on challenges faced by urban children

24 février 2012 –The annual flagship report of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) will this year focus on the challenges and disadvantages faced by children worldwide who live in cities and other urban areas.

More than a billion children, or over half the global population of minors, are now estimated to live in urban areas, according to UNICEF, which is releasing the report entitled “The State of the World’s Children 2012” on Tuesday.

Not all children living in urban areas are benefiting from the economic expansion in cities, UNICEF said in a statement issued ahead of the report’s release.

“In this increasingly urban world, the absence of a sustained focus on child rights means that some children are being left behind,” the statement noted.

The report documents the struggles that urban children face in upholding their rights to survival, health, nutrition, education and protection.

“Although cities and towns generally offer better options for schooling, medical care and recreation, those already disadvantaged – including children living in slums and informal settlements, migrant children, or children living or working on the streets – are unlikely to enjoy the benefits,” the statement said.

One of the report’s editors, AbidAslam, said it was disturbing that so many children worldwide were being born into “extremely harsh” urban conditions, especially in slums, where homelessness, exploitative labour and gang violence are common.

“They don’t know often from one week to the next where they’re going to live, much less whether they’re going to be able to go to school, or whether they’re going to have clean, piped water,” he said.

The world is moving online”: promoting freedom of expression

9 March 2012 - How can the right to freedom of expression be respected, protected and promoted when exercised through the Internet? Is there a need to define new rules for human rights on the Internet? And how can we bridge the digital divide, and attain universal access to the Internet? Under international human rights law, limitations of freedom of expression are permissible in exceptional cases, such as child pornography and incitement to hatred: what are the most effective ways in which such exceptional cases can be taken into account, without jeopardizing the right to freedom of opinion and expression?

These and other questions were the focus of the first-ever panel discussion on the right to freedom of expression on the Internet held by the UN Human Rights Council on 29 February 2012.

Like no other communications medium before it, the Internet allows individuals to communicate instantaneously and inexpensively, and it has had a dramatic impact on the way information and ideas are shared and accessed.

“The Internet has transformed human rights movements,” said UN Human Rights chief Navi Pillay. “States can no longer exercise control by claiming a monopoly over information.”

“This has resulted in a backlash effect and intensified attempts to unduly restrict access to online content or Internet as such,” she stressed. While there is a need to combat criminal activities on the Internet, “there is also a real concern that methods to identify and track down criminals may be used to crack down on human rights defenders and suppress dissenting voices,” Pillay noted.

“Currently 40 countries sanction the Internet, up considerably from a few years ago,” explained William Echikson, Head of External Relations for Google. “Among the 150 countries where Google operates, 25 countries ban or block Google’s products.”

Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, said that the “freedoms and human rights that we cherish in the off-line world must also be protected in the on-line world.” Failure to do

so means that “as we switch on to the online world, we switch off our freedoms.” For Bildt, hate speech, for example, should and could be stopped by the same laws for the Internet as on print media.

“Whether through oral or written words, art or any other form of expression, the same basic international norms and standards on the right to freedom of expression apply,” said Frank La Rue, UN expert on the right to freedom of opinion and expression.” “We do not need new standards on human rights for the Internet,” he stressed.

In his latest reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, La Rue underscored that the types of information or expression that may be restricted under international human rights law in relation to off-line content also apply to online content.

“There is an increasing trend to criminalize the Internet, and as a result, there is a need for a decriminalization campaign for the Internet,” he said at the panel. La Rue stressed the need for a multi-stakeholder dialogue to establish acceptable mechanisms to regulate exceptional types of content deemed to be illegal under international law, including measures such as blocking and filtering.

He also suggested that the Council could adopt a declaration recognizing the indispensable role of the Internet to exercise the right to freedom of expression, and condemning censorship on the Internet. On the question of access to the internet, La Rue said that it is crucial to understand that it was a question of freedom of expression and the international community should strive towards Internet access for everyone.

The Internet has become a vital communications medium which individuals can use to exercise their right to freedom of expression, or the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, as guaranteed under articles 19 of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

VIENNA – AUSTRIA – BERGER Franz
UNITED NATIONS Representative

January – March 2012

Statement on behalf of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs March ORAL-Statement Michel Perron.

Attendances

The Academic Council on United Nations System (ACUN S) and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna 11th January.

Meeting Vienna NGO Alliance – 23.01.12 VIC – Violence against children
The United Nations and Civil Society Today: We the People.

Participation of NGOs at the Commission`s three Round Table discussions
12th March 2012.

Informal Dialogue between the Vienna NGO Committee and the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of UNODC – 14th March 2012.

Meeting of the Vienna NGO Alliance with the “HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCESS BASJRAKITIYABHA NMAHIDOL (THAILAND) Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice - 12th March 2012 .

Informal Dialogue between the INCB and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs 13th March 201.

PARIS – France – MARTINET Benoit
UNESCO Representative

- January 13: Within the Programme of Participation in the activities of Member States, the global priorities fixed by the UNESCO for 2012 are Africa and gender equality, least developed countries, developing countries, countries in post-conflict or post-disaster situation, and small islands developing states and countries in transition.
- February 3: **attribution by UNESCO of «consultative status » to IPA**. This category of partnership is designed to enable UNESCO to establish and maintain flexible and dynamic partnership with any organization of civil society that is active in UNESCO's fields of competence at whatever level, and to benefit from its expertise, the representativeness of its networks for the dissemination of information and, if appropriate, its operational capacities in the field.
- February 9 and 10: invitation to the conference, under the patronage of UNESCO, “The contribution of catholic universities to intercultural education”.
- February 28: Invitation as observer, to participate in the meeting of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners of the Executive Board. It was proposed to devote the meeting to the implementation of the new Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations, adopted by the General Conference.
- February 28: colloquium at UNESCO, to pay tribute to Vaclav Havel, former President, groundbreaking playwright and great humanist who led his country to democracy.
- March 2: international cooperation with six high level police officers from UKRAINE.
- March 8: international cooperation with four senior police officers from the NETHERLANDS.
- March 9: UNESCO, round table “Trafficking in Women”, with Mrs GraziaGiammarinaro, Special OSCE representative and co-ordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, and Mrs GülserCorat, director of the division for gender equality.

NEW YORK – USA – ALBRECHT Jimmy
UNITED NATIONS Representative

The IPA ERC representatives in New York City, Jimmy Albrecht and Tony Mok, have continued to monitor the meetings posted by the UN involving criminal justice and law enforcement. No meetings had been scheduled from January through March 2012 that would significantly affect the International Police Association. Jimmy Albrecht has cooperation with international police attaches assigned to United Nations responsibilities in New York City. In addition, Jimmy Albrecht and Tony Mok are assisting the UN ECOSOC in planning for the International Police Executive Symposium conference in August 2012 at the UN headquarters. This conference will be attended by police chiefs and criminal justice research officials from across the globe. Jimmy will attend the conference. Jimmy Albrecht is scheduled to meet with representatives from the United Nations Police in Kosovo who will be visiting NYC in April 2012.

WASHINGTON – USA – BRIEN Hugh
Organization of American States Representative

SUB REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CUSTOMS AND FACILITY SECURITY COORDINATION- CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

As with two prior workshops of the same focus, a three-day activity was delivered by Canada, United States Coast Guard with the support of other regional entities including Canada's Border Security Agency (CBSA), World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The workshop was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic for 56 Customs officials from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

The focus of the workshops was to highlight and discuss challenges affecting coordination and information-sharing between Customs, Port Security and other entities responsible for maritime security in Central America and Dominican Republic, as well as identifying and sharing best practices and recommendations for improving inter-agency cooperation in maritime security matters.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON RISK -ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ANTI-TERRORIST MATTERS:

A three-day workshop included 32 representatives from Jamaican Ports, relevant government authorities and the private sector. Participants received instruction on aspects of risk assessment.

The seminar was conducted by subject experts from Canada and the Dominican Republic. Presentation modules were accompanied by discussion sessions and a working group exercise in order to promote a more integrated approach to maritime risk assessment and management.

SUB-REGIONAL CRUISESHIP FACILITY WORKSHOP

A three-day workshop was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The event brought together the expertise from both the private and public sectors in an effort to strengthen the participant on issues relating to cruise ship facility security.

The workshop covered best practices with regard to threat assessments relating to passenger baggage and cargo screening among other issues. Over 200 officials involved in maritime security participated in the workshop.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS CONTROLS: Kingston, Jamaica

This event provided participants with training to more effectively combat drug, human and other forms of illicit trafficking and improve controls over the movement of people and goods through the country's seaports, airports, and land-border crossings through a practical approach to everyday situations in immigration and customs controls. It included physical and behavioral screening, baggage and cargo screening, human trafficking, and inspection of travel, identity and other documents.

Additionally, the workshop emphasized the importance of coordinated work among the Jamaican entities and the prosecuting authorities. The target audience was comprised of 45 officials drawn from customs, immigration and constabulary personnel within various government agencies.

BRUXELLES – BELGIQUE – ANTOINE Philippe
European Institutions Representative

A SEMINAR ON THE INFRINGEMENT Gimborn

Early 2012, I reconnected with the new Director of Gimborn Gabriele Bischoff and M. Lessmann. He reported that he had not yet entered a relationship with Mr. TOURNIE DG JUSTICE, while Klaus Nieder (Former Director) and I had met him in his office in Brussels a year ago ...It seems that Gimborn have decided to trial the topic as a normal

IBZ seminar. The Gimborn seminar will be chaired by Stephen Crockard, possibly in connection with Fritz Schwindt. So, I sent to F. SCHWINDT, a representative list of firms that could come as an expert.

MEETING WITH MR SCHONBERG - COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE MALMSTRÖM

I had an appointment with Mr. SCHONBERG this Jan. 25 to the Commission. We discussed several topics.

Mr. SCHONBERG exposed me a problem he faces in his contacts with members of the European Parliament. He regretted that the IPA had no office lobbies to counteract "anti safe" that block a number of projects of Commissioners MALMSTRÖM, ASHTON and Reding. His interest in our association is also greatly motivated by the fact that we are not a lobby as there are many others in Brussels. He would like IPA can provide different views of the representatives of national police forces that do reflect the positions of their governments without qualms.

He says look at ways to find a budget to fund the IPA office in the capital of Europe. I told him it would be difficult to have staff permanently as there is a problem of status. This remains under investigation.

We agreed with Mr SCHONBERG to see us regularly and organize under the auspices of the IPA, small conferences on issues of interest to police the entire membership of the European Union. I offered a presentation about cyber attacks on banks. He scored a great interest (see below).

CABINET MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONER MALSTROM 8 MARS 2012

Participated: MM. Soren SCHONBERG, Erik WINDMAR (both cabinet MALMSTRÖM), Cathrin Bauer-Bulst (DG Internal Affairs), Ian Matthews (DG Internal Market and Services).

Members of the Federal Judicial Police, leading the struggle against economic and organized financial (OCDEFO), the Federal Computer Crime Unit (FCCU).

Under the auspices of the IPA, I organized a meeting on the theme: cyber attacks on banks, a threat to the European economy.

Mr. SCHONBERG warmly thanked for the presentation very informative.

It was agreed to meet again soon for a new presentation.