



Luxembourg, 15 January 2003

Press release 01/03

Today, 15 January 2003 at 18.00, a public sitting of the EFTA Court was held at the Cercle Municipal, Place d'Armes, Luxembourg, on the occasion of the end of term of office and departure of President and Judge Thór Vilhjálmsson. At the same public sitting Mr Thorgeir Örlygsson took the oath and entered into office as Judge at the EFTA Court with a term of office that ends on 31 December 2008.

Following the departure of Mr Thór Vilhjálmsson, former President of the EFTA Court, and the entry into office as Judge at the EFTA Court of Mr Thorgeir Örlygsson, the Members of the EFTA Court have elected among them, Mr Carl Baudenbacher, as President for a term ending on 31 December 2005. The President of the EFTA Court directs the judicial business and the administration of the Court, and presides at hearings and at deliberations.

Thór Vilhjálmsson was born in 1930; Assistant Lecturer, University of Iceland, 1959–62; Part-time Lecturer 1962–67; Professor 1967–76; Dean, Faculty of Law, 1968–70; Director, Institute of Law, 1974–76; Deputy Judge, Reykjavík Civil Court, 1960–62; Judge 1962–67; Judge, European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg, 1971–1998; Vice-President of that Court 1998; Judge, Supreme Court of Iceland, 1976–1993, President 1983–84 and 1993; Member of Icelandic delegations to UN General Assembly 1963, UN Sea-Bed Committee 1972 and 1973, Law of the Sea Conference 1974 and 1975 and other international conferences. President, Association of Icelandic Lawyers, 1971–74; Editor, Icelandic Law Review, 1973–83; Judge at the EFTA Court, 1994–2002, President of the EFTA Court 2000–2002.

Carl Baudenbacher was born in 1947; Assistant University of Berne 1972–75; Assistant University of Zurich 1976–1978; Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the Max Planck-Institute for International Intellectual Property Law in Munich 1979–1982; Court Secretary Bulach District Court 1982–1984; Visiting Professor Universities of Bochum, Berlin, Tübingen, Marburg and Saarbrücken 1984–86; Professor of Private, Commercial, Labour and Economic Law University of Kaiserslautern 1987; Chair of Private, Business and Economic Law University of St. Gallen 1987; Managing Director European Law Institute, University of St. Gallen 1990; Visiting Professor University of Geneva 1991; Chairman St. Gallen Competition Law Forum 1993; Visiting Professor University of Texas at Austin School of Law 1993; Expert advisor of the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein in EEA matters 1990–1994; Member of the Supreme Court of the Principality of Liechtenstein 1994–95; Judge at the EFTA Court since 1995; President of the EFTA Court since 2003.



Thorgeir Örlygsson was born in 1952; Assistant Judge, City Court of Reykjavik, 1978–82; Assistant to the Supreme Court justices, Supreme Court of Iceland, 1982–84; Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Iceland, 1984–86; Judge, City Court of Reykjavik, 1986–87; Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Iceland, 1987–99; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Iceland, since 1999.

For further information, please contact Registrar Lucien Dedichen, Tel. 00 35 2 42 10 81, Fax 00 35 2 43 43 89.