



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

T.M.C. ASSER
INSTITUUT

Centre for International & European Law

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T.M.C. Asser Instituut Annual Report 2015

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FOREWORD

The board of the Asser Institute is proud to present the Annual Report 2015 of the T.M.C. Asser Instituut. At the beginning of 2015, the board started its work in a new composition, including the two directors and two non-executive members, representing the University of Amsterdam and the other founding universities.

This report highlights some of the achievements of the Asser Institute's staff in the period January to December 2015. It provides an impression of how Asser is successful in fulfilling its mission which is to further the development of international and European law in such a way that it serves the cultivation of trust and respect in the global, regional, national and local societies in which it operates.

Asser 50 years

In 2015, the T.M.C. Asser Instituut celebrated its 50th anniversary. In addition to a full agenda of research and dissemination activities, this special anniversary was acknowledged with a series of lectures culminating with the launch of the T.M.C. Asser Lecture series in the Great Hall of the Peace Palace on 2 December 2015. We were honoured to have Prof. Joseph Weiler, President of the European University Institute, Florence, deliver this first lecture, entitled "Peace in the Middle East: has International Law failed?"

Strategic Plan and Strategic Research Agenda 2016 - 2020

2015 also saw the preparation of the institute's strategic plan for the coming years. This plan sees to the institute strengthening its academic profile and foster its orientation towards fundamental and independent policy-oriented research. The Strategic Research Agenda (2016 - 2020), entitled '*International & European Law as a Source of Trust in a Hyper-connected World*', is the substantive basis for the institute's direction during this period.

Administrative Unit of the Global Counterterrorism Forum

As co-founder of the International Centre for Counter Terrorism in The Hague, the Asser Institute assumed the administrative leadership of the Administrative Unit of the Global Counterterrorism Forum in June 2015, when this unit was transferred from Washington, D.C. to The Hague. The co-chairs of the Global Counterterrorism Forum for the period 2015-2018 are the Netherlands and Morocco.

Finance

Despite receding core funding, we remain in satisfactory shape financially. Thanks to our continued success in acquiring externally funded projects and commissions, and to our focus on controlling and reducing costs, we are in a position to increase our reserves by some €252,000.

Looking forward

In 2016, we will continue to develop the institute and ensure that the organisation is and remains fit for purpose for the coming years. We will develop mutual activities in The Hague in cooperation with the law faculty of the University of Amsterdam. We will work with our national and international partners and stakeholders, as well as with the Municipality of The Hague to help strengthen the knowledge structure that is a cornerstone for the 'City of Peace and Justice'.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to our success, particularly the Asser staff. Together we will continue to build on our achievements.

Ernst Hirsch Ballin
President
June 2016

T.M.C. ASSER INSTITUUT

The T.M.C. Asser Instituut, established in 1965, is an internationally renowned centre of expertise in the fields of public international law, private international law, and European law. Its mission is to further the development of international and European law in such a way that it serves the cultivation of trust and respect in the global, regional, national and local societies in which it operates.

Located in the heart of the legal community in The Hague, the Netherlands, it fulfils an important role in undertaking fundamental and independent practice and policy-oriented research, and providing a platform for international cooperation and partnering in fields of law at the cutting edge of academia and practice.

The University of Amsterdam is responsible for the personnel and financing of the institute on behalf of the other stakeholder universities.¹

With the intent to build on its strong, independent research activities, to strengthen its academic profile and to foster its orientation towards fundamental and independent policy-

oriented research the institute has prepared its Strategic Research Agenda (2016-2020), entitled *'International & European Law as a Source of Trust in a Hyper-connected World'*. This research plan is the substantive basis for the institute's direction in the period 2016-2020.

The Asser Institute assumes a vanguard role for the University of Amsterdam in The Hague (that is, for the UvA Law School in general and the Amsterdam Centre for International Law (ACIL) in particular.

The Asser Institute also seeks to fulfil its role as an inter-university facilitator. With its strong convening power, it continues to attract legal scholars from around the world to The Hague in order to present and test cutting edge ideas in their respective fields of expertise. It is the natural place for critical and constructive reflection on international and European legal developments, and the place for all Dutch Law Schools that wish to collaborate with Asser in research networks and projects and/or in knowledge disseminating activities, to join forces for mutual benefits.

¹ Stakeholder universities are: University of Amsterdam, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Tilburg University, Maastricht University, Leiden University, Utrecht University, Radboud University Nijmegen, University of Groningen, University of Twente.

50 YEARS ASSER INSTITUTE

In 2015, the Asser Institute celebrated its 50th anniversary. The institute returned to the scholarship of the Amsterdam law professor and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, after whom the institute was named, Tobias Asser (1838-1913), to be inspired by his legal thought. Inspiration was taken from one short statement in particular: 'law serves primarily to cultivate trust'. At a time in which debates on a wide range of topics all have overtones of distrust, the Asser Institute has developed a research agenda on questions of (well-placed) trust and trustworthiness in international and European law. The agenda will be briefly introduced below.

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the institute organised four symposia (see Network & Events) and published a volume on *Fundamental Rights in International and European Law: Public and Private Law Perspectives*, a theme on which Asser researchers could naturally unite their strength. Also, the institute launched the Annual T.M.C. Asser Lecture on 2 December 2015 (www.asser.nl/annual-lecture).

The Annual T.M.C. Asser Lecture invites distinguished international lawyers to take inspiration from Asser's idea of cultivating trust and respect through law and legal institutions, and to examine what it could mean in their area of expertise today.



Inaugural T.M.C. Asser Lecture, 2 December 2015, at the Peace Palace

RESEARCH

Introduction

The newly appointed academic director, Prof. Janne Nijman LL.M PhD, initiated an overhaul of the research program of the institute. Early 2015, the research department started its monthly Research Seminars to discuss researchers' papers in progress, as well as monthly Research Luncheons to discuss important legal scholarship relevant to Asser researchers across legal disciplines. The Asser Visiting Research Fellows Programme is a valuable element of the Asser research community. The researchers present their research, conducted during their stay at the institute, in seminars, thus actively contributing to the research exchanges and discussions.

A new research agenda

In 2015, the Asser Institute launched the Asser Strategic Research Agenda (ASRA), *International & European Law as a Source of Trust in a Hyper-connected World*. The ASRA guides and directs the institute's research for the years 2016-2020. The institute boasts a broad scope of legal expertise in legal disciplines, ranging from public international law, international criminal law, international humanitarian law, (counter-terrorism and) international human rights law, transnational law and (European) private international law to European environmental

law, European constitutional law and the law of EU external relations.

The Research Agenda builds on the strength of our expertise and at the same time identifies three research strands on which future research will focus and converge – A) *Human Dignity and Human Security in International and European Law*; B) *Advancing Public Interests in International and European Law*; C) *Adequate Dispute Settlement and Adjudication in International and European Law* – as well as an overarching sphere, addressing more general conceptual questions.

The ASRA draws on our conviction that trust and trustworthiness are important in today's hyper-connected world, full of global challenges, and that international and European law have a role to play in the cultivation of a culture of trust and trustworthiness, necessary to confront these challenges collaboratively. The ASRA aims to connect research that is presently taking place at the institute, to expand collaboration across legal disciplines on the identified themes, and to lay the ground for future research (cooperation) activities.

This research framework will strengthen both our fundamental research and our practice

and policy-oriented research, and will foster synergies. It is the combination of having access to both the academic world and to the world of practice that makes Asser unique and that, together with the ASRA, will guide us in the years to come.

Research staff

The Academic Director heads the institute's research department, comprising 13 researchers and 4 PhD candidates. An additional 6 visiting scholars and 24 interns were welcomed at the institute to conduct (individual) research on the premises.

A highlight of 2015: Antoine Duval defended his PhD on 'La Lex Sportiva Face au Droit de l'Union Européenne: Guerre et Paix dans l'Espace Juridique Transnational' at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

Asser awarded major research grant

In December 2015, the Gieskes Strijbis Foundation awarded the Asser Institute a major research grant to implement a research project on 'The Global City: Challenges, Trust and the Role of Law'. The four-year research grant enables the institute to appoint four PhD researchers, starting September 2016. The research project will be headed by Janne Nijman, Professor of History and Theory of International Law at the University of Amsterdam School of Law and Academic Director of the Asser Institute, and carried out in collaboration with Ernst Hirsch Ballin, Professor of Human Rights at the University of Amsterdam School of Law and President of the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, and Emile Schrijver, Professor of Jewish Book History at the University of Amsterdam School of Humanities and General Director of Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam.



Prof. Dr Ernst Hirsch Ballin and Dr Antoine Duval

HIGHLIGHTS 2015

The breadth of Asser's research output ranges from books, edited volumes, scientific publications in international peer-reviewed journals to opinion pieces and discussions on pertinent issues of international law, providing serious background information for the media and blogs. Its contract research feeds into policy-making at national, European and international levels, thus creating new knowledge and benefiting society.

Publications

Selected publications:

- J. Dorsey and C. Paulussen (2015). Towards a European Position on Armed Drones and Targeted Killing: Surveying EU Counterterrorism Perspectives. *ICCT Research Paper*.
- O. Güven (2015). Treaty Withdrawal. In: Developing Consensus on Strengthening Article X (1) of the NPT, *INENS Research Brief*.
- D. Jancic (2015). The Game of Cards: National Parliaments in the EU and the Future of the Early Warning Mechanism and the Political Dialogue. *Common Market Law Review*, 52(4), 939-976.
- V. Lazić (2015). Legal Framework for International Child Abduction in the European Union – The Need for Changes in the Light of *Povse v. Austria*. In: Župan, M. (ed.). *Private International Law in the Jurisprudence of European Courts - Family at Focus*. Osijek: Faculty of Law Osijek Josip Juraj, pp. 295-317.
- B. Van Rompuy (2015). The role of EU competition law in tackling abuse of regulatory power by sports associations. *Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law*, 22(2), 174-204.

Meetings in collaboration with the Amsterdam Center for International Law (ACIL) of the University of Amsterdam



Mr. Hidde Houben, Deputy chief negotiator for TTIP (DG Trade) and Prof. Dr. Janne Nijman, Academic Director T.M.C. Asser Instituut

Roundtable "Tiptoeing to the TTIP: What Kind of Agreement for What Kind of Partnership?"

8 September 2015

In light of the ongoing negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, in cooperation with the ACIL and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organised a roundtable designed to highlight the main contentious issues surrounding the current debate: regulatory cooperation and the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism. The first session of the roundtable was chaired by Ronald Roosdorp (MFA), and included panelists Wybe Douma and Davor Jancic (both from Asser Institute) and Joana Mendes (ACELG, University of Amsterdam) who shared their insights on various aspects of regulatory cooperation, ranging from

HIGHLIGHTS 2015

environmental and consumer protection standards to the impact of regulatory cooperation on EU law-making. The second session, chaired by Prof. Pieter Jan Kuijper (ACIL), addressed the intended inclusion of an ISDS in the TTIP. Presentations were given by Ingo Venzke and Stephan Schill (both from the ACIL), and Luca Pantaleo (Asser Institute). The policy papers have been published in the CLEER paper Series.

- **Seminar and Public Roundtable “In Whose Name? On the Functions, Authority and Legitimacy of International Adjudication”, co-organised by the Max Planck Institutes in Heidelberg and Luxembourg, the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, and the ACIL**

7 and 8 September 2015

‘In Whose Name do or should international courts decide?’ This is the fundamental question raised in a research project by Armin von Bogdandy (Max Planck Institute Heidelberg) and Ingo Venzke (ACIL), and it was the overarching question debated at a Public Roundtable organised in cooperation with the Asser Institute. The speakers, each with their own expertise and relevant experience with different international courts and tribunals, shared their reflections on the issues of legitimacy that lie behind this question. Asser Institute’s researcher Antoine Duval presented the paper “Not in my name! Claudia Pechstein and the post-consensual foundations of the Court of Arbitration for Sport”.

- **Workshop on “Governing the Global Climate Regime: Issues of Institutional Integrity and Justice” organised by the Griffith University’s Institute for**

Ethics, Governance and Law (IEGL) from Australia, in collaboration with the Asser Institute and ACIL

15 and 16 June 2015

The workshop addressed specific elements of the global and other climate regimes, commenting inter alia on governance, integrity and effectiveness issues, and addressing, in particular, current weaknesses. Wybe Douma (Asser Institute) presented a paper on the EU governance regarding biofuels. Discussions on what lessons could be learned from those weaknesses and which good governance solutions might be encapsulated in the future regimes regarding climate change, notably at the global climate summit in Paris at the end of 2015.

Asser’s inter-university activities

- The 2nd Inter-university **‘Private International Law’** PhD day, 21 May 2015, at the Asser Institute.
- Asser’s coordination of the **Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER) included the organisation of the CLEER conference** on ‘The Institutional Balance in the Practice of the External Relations of the European Union’, two workshops, two CLEER Presidency Lectures (Latvia and Italy), and the publishing of two new issues of its CLEER paper series.
- Asser’s coordination of **The International Humanitarian and Criminal Law (IHCL) Platform** - an academic network fostering research in the area of international criminal law and humanitarian law, and providing an academic platform for discussion of relevant

contemporary issues and legal questions for which there is, as yet, no fixed jurisprudential position. In 2015, the platform welcomed Tilburg University and Maastricht University as new members. Its events included the 4th IHCL Platform PhD Day at which six PhD candidates from six different universities discussed their research.

- Asser’s coordination of the **Supranational Criminal Law Lecture series** with the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies of Leiden University (Campus The Hague) and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court. Speakers in 2015 were, amongst

others, James Stewart, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, who spoke on “International criminal law – a personal note on its practice and current challenges” and Sean D. Murphy, Special Rapporteur for Crimes against Humanity, U.N. International Law Commission, on “Inside the International Law Commission: Towards a Convention on Crimes Against Humanity”.

For a complete overview of the Asser research output in 2015, see the online Appendix ‘Research Publications, Presentations and Outreach’ at www.asser.nl/annualreport2015.



Speakers at the Public Roundtable “In Whose Name? On the Functions, Authority and Legitimacy of International Adjudication”



Mr James Stewart, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

GRANTS AND COMMISSIONED STUDIES

GRANTS AND COMMISSIONED STUDIES

The Asser Institute provides expert opinions, research and advice on pressing legal issues to policy makers, Dutch and international law firms, courts, businesses and enterprises, as well as legal advice to national and international governmental and non-governmental organisations, including ministries, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the United Nations. The institute's specific expertise is complementary in nature to that of other specialised entities. As such, Asser's research staff frequently joins forces with external parties, working together to make significant contributions to a wide ranging clientele in the Netherlands and abroad.

The impact of our applied and contract research activities is evident from the list of projects and studies carried out in 2015. Ongoing projects, such as the **International Crimes Database & Web-environment**, supported by ICCT and the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice, as well as the EU sponsored project **Support to the Rule of Law in Montenegro**, were complemented with newly acquired projects in 2015.

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Cross-Border Proceedings in Family Law Matters before National Courts and CJEU

In a consortium with Utrecht University, International Legal Institute, Ghent University and Valencia University, the Asser Institute was commissioned a study by the European Commission's DG Justice. Researchers undertake a study that will contribute to the correct and consistent implementation of Regulation (EC) 2201/2003 (BIIaReg) concerning divorce and parental responsibilities matters.

The Application of Brussels I (recast) in the Legal Practice of EU Member States

The European Commission DG Justice commissioned a second study to Asser. Together with the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Asser researchers investigate the functioning of new EU Private International Law legislation in the legal practice of the national legal orders and factors that contribute to successful implementation.

Implementation and Effects of the Inclusion of Financial Services in Existing Free Trade and Association Agreements, and in particular, their Impact on Money Laundering, Tax Evasion and Elusion

The Asser Institute was commissioned to conduct a study for the European Parliament's Committee for International Trade (INTA). This study analyses the inclusion of financial services in EU free trade agreements and its impact on money laundering, tax evasion and elusion. The project was carried out in cooperation with consortium partners from the University of Groningen. The study provided policy recommendations that fed into the European Parliament's scrutiny of the EU's ongoing trade negotiations, notably those with the US on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Questions Concerning Liability for the Removal of Ship Wrecks

The Asser Institute, commissioned and funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, conducted a study on questions concerning liability for the removal of ship wrecks, in view of the recent entry into force of the 2007 Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, to which the Netherlands is signatory.

A detailed list of Asser research projects in 2015 can be found in the online Appendix 'Research Projects' at www.asser.nl/annualreport2015.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION

The T.M.C. Asser Instituut is a leading and authoritative provider of professional and postgraduate education. Utilising the collective knowledge and skills and the power of partnership, the institute is accomplished and successful in creating truly unique and highly relevant programmes on a variety of subjects and levels for a diverse range of individuals operating in the judicial sector. Among others, the Asser Institute develops and delivers programmes to judges, prosecutors, legislators, civil servants, diplomats, lawyers and students.

The breadth of Asser's training programmes ranges from capacity building to interdisciplinary knowledge development for professionals to contributing to curricula of international universities' law degree programmes. The impact of our work is that the rule of law is strengthened and that professionals in the public and private sector are equipped with up-to-date knowledge on the legal framework pillar. Topics include counter-terrorism, environmental law, CBRN issues, European and sports law. Also, students of selected international universities have the opportunity to learn from and engage with the top legal practitioners and academics in the legal capital of the world, The Hague.

The institute is proud to have delivered a high degree of expertise and competence, taking advantage of our academic integration and our extensive network of excellent and renowned speakers, teaching staff and associates.

The T.M.C. Asser Instituut is:

- A signatory of the Gedragscode²
- (Landelijke Commissie Hoger Onderwijs)
- An ABA³ approved partner in (US) law school curriculum
- Mandated Body for twinning activities

HIGHLIGHTS 2015

- **Matra Pre-Accession Training Programme on the Rule of Law (Matra PATROL)**

In 2015, the Asser Institute concluded this four-year programme. This training programme aimed to stimulate, support and contribute to the efficient implementation of the EU Acquis in the area of 'rule of law', and to strengthen relations between the Netherlands and the target countries (i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia (until EU accession), Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey) by sharing the necessary knowledge, skills and best

² De Gedragscode internationale student in het Nederlandse hoger onderwijs (Code of Conduct) garandeert de kwaliteit van het hoger onderwijs aan buitenlandse studenten.

³ ABA (American Bar Association). ABA's most important stated activities are the setting of academic standards for law schools, and the formulation of model ethical codes related to the legal profession.

practices with about 200 policy advisors, members of the judiciary and other civil servants. With trainings focused on the topics of *Access to Justice*, *Administration of Justice*, *Quality, Application and Enforcement of Legislation* and *Alternative Dispute Resolution*, the institute contributed to capacity building and democratic reform.

The entire Matra PATROL training programme (2012-2015) was commissioned and funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Our valued partners in delivering this large-scale programme were The Hague Academy for Local Governance and Ecorys Academy.

• **Matra South Administration of Justice training programme for Arab Countries - Supporting Democratic Transition in the Arab Region**

In 2015, the Asser Institute again delivered the training programme on *Administration of Justice*. The institute shared knowledge and skills with judges, public prosecutors and officers from Ministries of Justice, courts and other (semi)governmental organisations involved in the rule of law, from the target countries (Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia). Training took place both in The Hague and in Rabat, Morocco.

This programme was commissioned by RVO. nl and was funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

• **Advanced Summer Programme on Countering Terrorism: Legal Challenges and Dilemmas**

24 – 28 August 2015

The Asser Institute, together with the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague, delivered for the fifth time this advanced programme which focuses on the international legal aspects of counter-terrorism. Theoretical knowledge was supported by study visits to institutes, such as Eurojust and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The programme was concluded with a High Level Panel discussion on “The Dilemmas Involved in Countering Terrorism through the Internet: What’s at Stake?”.

• **Summer Programme on Disarmament & Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in a Changing World**

31 August – 4 September 2015

The Asser Institute, in cooperation with the OPCW, convened 20 professionals from across the globe to discuss and debate topical and relevant issues concerning Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Under the guidance and steering of experts, participants were provided with clear insights into the functioning of the four international WMD treaty organisations.

A detailed list of all Asser training programmes in 2015 can be found in the online Appendix ‘Training Programmes’ at www.asser.nl/annualreport2015.

L: Matra Patrol Roundtable in the region



R: Mr Ard van der Steur, Minister of Security and Justice of the Kingdom of The Netherlands



L: Participants Matra Patrol Training Programme on Public Finance Management



R: Keynote speaker: H.E. Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)



L: Ms Daphne Bergsma, Director Europe Department, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs



R: High Level Panel Discussion with (l-r) Dr Quirine Eijkman, Campus The Hague, Leiden University; Ms Verity Harding, Google Europe; Mr Rob Wainwright, Europol and Mr Marco de Swart, ICCT (moderator)



NETWORK & EVENTS

NETWORK & EVENTS

In 2015, the institute conceived, hosted and delivered a truly broad and comprehensive range of events: a total of 41 lectures, conferences, seminars, round tables and book launches, many in partnership with other organisations. These events brought together leading legal scholars, faculties, students, policy makers, practitioners and other professionals. It delivered rich content to these interest groups, whilst providing the opportunity to convene, share, discuss and explore current and new knowledge and developments relevant to their specific interest areas.

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Four symposia were organised to celebrate the institute's 50th anniversary:

- **Private International Law - Symposium "International Civil Procedure and Brussels I bis"**

19 March 2015

During this symposium, recent developments in EU private international law and changes that the Brussels I bis Regulation has brought to the matter of forum selection clauses as well as to the enforcement of foreign judgments were examined.

- **European Law - Symposium "Better Regulation in the EU revisited: benefiting business and citizens"**

23 April 2015

During this symposium, the institutional and substantive aspects of the EU's Better Regulation Agenda were discussed. Keynote speeches were given by Prof. Ben Smulders, the Head of Cabinet of the First Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr Frans Timmermans, and by Mr Piet Hein Donner, Vice-President of the Netherlands Council of State. This event built on Asser's 1997 conference and edited volume on the quality of EU legislation.

- **International and European Sports Law - Symposium "20 years later: the legacy of Bosman"**

18 June 2015

This symposium reflected on the European Court of Justice's landmark ruling in the Bosman case and explored its significant legal and political relevance for the development of EU sports law and policy.

- **Public International Law - Symposium “International Legal Aspects of Countering Piracy”**

15 October 2015

This symposium addressed the most important international legal questions regarding countering maritime piracy by repressive means.

- **Launch of the Annual T.M.C. Asser Lecture**

2 December 2015

The Inaugural T.M.C. Asser Lecture, entitled “Peace in the Middle East: has International Law failed?”, was delivered by Prof. Joseph Weiler, President of the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, and University Professor at NYU School of Law.

The video of the Inaugural T.M.C. Asser Lecture can be viewed on the Asser website: www.asser.nl/annual-lecture.

The financial support of a diverse range of national and international donors, to make these events happen, is acknowledged here. The Asser Institute is proud to have contributed to building the skills and capacity of tomorrow’s leaders and institutions.

A detailed list of all Asser events in 2015 can be found in the online Appendix ‘Events’ at www.asser.nl/annualreport2015.

L: Prof. Francisco Garcimartín Alférez, Chair Professor of Private International Law at Universidad Autónoma of Madrid



R: Prof. Ben Smulders, Head of Cabinet of the First Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr Frans Timmermans



L-R: Mr Gert-Jan van Hegelsom, Legal Affairs Division European External Action Service; Mr Peter Post, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr Peter Cook, Executive Officer, Security Association for the Maritime Industry; Onur Güven, Asser Institute.



Prof. Joseph Weiler, President of the European University Institute, Florence, Italy



Prof. Dr Carl Otto Lenz, Advocate General during the Bosman proceedings

T.M.C. ASSER PRESS

T.M.C. ASSER PRESS

The institute's publishing house, T.M.C. Asser Press, promotes and disseminates the best legal thinking of academics and practitioners worldwide, in the fields of international and European law.

Asser Press, together with members of the law faculties of Dutch and foreign universities and staff members of the international organisations in The Hague and abroad, continues to support and platform academic cooperation through the publication of books, e-books and journals.

In 2015, Asser Press published sixteen new book titles and five journals with a total of seventeen issues. A highlight is the publication, on the occasion of the institute's 50th anniversary, of the book entitled 'Fundamental Rights in International and European Law', edited by Asser researchers C. Paulussen, T. Takács, V. Lazić, and B. Van Rompuy.

On 2 December 2015, Dr Christophe Paulussen presented the first copy of the book to Mr Ard van der Steur, Minister of Security and Justice of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, at the Inaugural T.M.C. Asser Lecture at the Peace Palace.

The Press has been active and successful in acquiring, publishing and promoting its publications at major international conferences, many local meetings and book launches throughout 2015. It was represented at the American Society of International Law (Washington, D.C.), the European Society of International Law (Oslo), the Frankfurt Book Fair, and the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War (Prague).

Deserving special mention:

- All Asser Press books are listed in Thomson Reuter's Book Citation Index (BCI). All its

periodicals are included in Scopus (Elsevier), the largest abstract and citation database of peer reviewed publications.

- All Asser Press titles are covered in the new Bookmetrix platform (SpringerNature) that offers a comprehensive overview of the impact of a book by providing various book-level and chapter-level metrics. This platform measures the number of times a specific title has been downloaded.
- The Hague Journal on the Rule of Law and The European Business Organisation Law Review (EBOR) are included in Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) of Thomson Reuters.
- All Asser Press English-language books are available on Springer's innovative platform SpringerLink, which receives annually more than 130 million unique visitors and handles more than 70 million full-text downloads.

A detailed list of all T.M.C. Asser Press publications in 2015 can be found in the online Appendix 'T.M.C. Asser Press Publications' at www.asser.nl/annualreport2015.



Dr Christophe Paulussen presenting the first copy of the Asser Jubilee book to Mr Ard van der Steur, Minister of Security and Justice of the Kingdom of The Netherlands

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The T.M.C. Asser Instituut is partially funded by public resources. In 2015, the core funding/ 1st money stream (administered by the University of Amsterdam) accounted for approximately 58% of the institute's net income. The additional 42% of net income is generated through undertaking externally funded activities for national and international stakeholders, including the European Commission (through tendered projects and grants), the Netherlands' Ministries (through tendered projects, trainings and conferences), and the US State Department (through management of the Administrative Unit for the Global Counterterrorism Unit). In addition, many other national and international organisations have contributed to the total revenues of the T.M.C. Asser Instituut in 2015.

The institute's condensed financial statement of activities for 2015 is presented in the table below. The accounts have been audited by the independent auditors, KPMG. Asser's financial performance in 2015 continued the trend of positive results of the last years.

Condensed Financial Statements

The Statement of Activities below shows operating revenues and expenses for the years ended 31 December 2015 and 2014.

	2015	2014
REVENUES		
Core funding	€ 2,162,000	€ 2,300,000
Additional income	€ 1,536,000	€ 1,562,000
Total Revenues	€ 3,698,000	€ 3,862,000
EXPENSES		
Personnel costs	€ 2,689,000	€ 2,525,000
Material costs	€ 657,000	€ 619,000
Total expenses	€ 3,346,000	€ 3,144,000
RESULT	€ 352,000	€ 718,000
Designated reserve	€ 100,000	€ 100,000
NET RESULT	€ 252,000	€ 618,000
Net assets 1 January	€ 2,354,000	€ 1,637,000
Net assets 31 December	€ 2,707,000	€ 2,354,000

At € 3,698 million, the total sum of operating revenue in 2015 is similar to that of the financial year 2014. Operating expenses of € 3,346 million for 2015 are 6.4 % higher than in 2014. The increase in costs is attributed to new staff appointments in 2015.

The Asser Institute's net result for 2015 shows a positive balance of € 252,000.

The institute's net assets totalled €2,707 million at the end of the financial year 2015, representing a 15% increase over the 2014 level.

The institute's long term debt was reduced by € 950,000 in 2015 leaving the current balance at € 450,000.

It remains that in order for the institute to continue to function as a vital research and knowledge valorisation organisation, a steady amount of new external financial support must be secured.

ORGANISATION

ORGANISATION

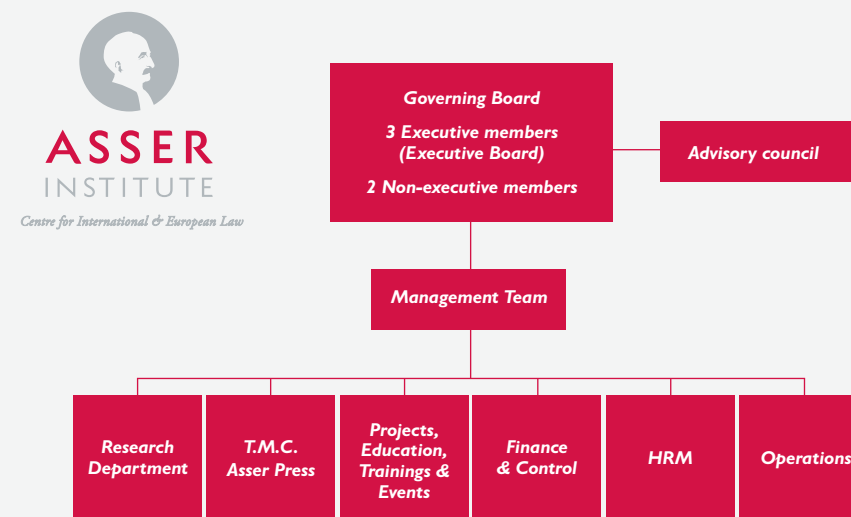
Within the organisational structure of the University of Amsterdam, the Foundation T.M.C. Asser Instituut falls under the university's Law Faculty. The Dean of the Law Faculty, is the University of Amsterdam's mandated Regulator of the T.M.C. Asser Instituut and is responsible for mediating the institute's affairs with the Executive Board of the University of Amsterdam.

Governance

The institute's unitary board structure comprises three executive members and two non-executive members. In 2015, the executive members were Prof. Dr E.M.H. Hirsch Ballin (President of the Board), Prof. Dr J.E. Nijman (Academic Director) and A.M. O'Brien MBA (Executive Director). The non-executive members in 2015 were Prof. Dr C.E. du Perron (University of Amsterdam) and Prof. Dr W.S.R. Stoter (Erasmus University, Rotterdam).

The board is responsible for the governance and overall management of the Foundation T.M.C. Asser Instituut, such that the institute's strategy and policies embody its mission and objectives.

During 2015, the Executive Board of the T.M.C. Asser Instituut convened on eleven occasions and the Governing Board convened on three occasions. Relevant agenda items included the institute's research agenda, its strategic plan 2016-2020, the organisation's structure and the level and quality of support functions as well as the financial position and funding of the institute.



SPONSORS, BENEFICIARIES AND PARTNERS

Personnel

On 31 December 2015, a total of 45 persons (equivalent to 40,26 fte) were employed by the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, including temporary and project related staff. In addition, during 2015, some 30 persons spent various periods at the institute either as visiting scholars (6) or interns (24).

Key figures

Staff 2015 (persons)	Male	Female	Total
Directors		2	2
Research staff, including (Associate) Professors	13	4	17
Visiting Researcher*	3	3	6
Interns*	9	15	24
Education, Training & Events		4	4
PR and Communication		1	1
T.M.C. Asser Press	2	3	5
Projects Office		2	2
Finance	2		2
Web development and ICT support	2		2
Facilities management, library and documentation services and general support	3	2	5
Human resources		2	2
Secretarial support		3	3

*These figures represent the totals for the entire year 2015.

A detailed overview of the members of staff employed in 2015 can be found in the online appendix 'Staff' at www.asser.nl/annualreport2015.

Up-to-date information on T.M.C. Asser Instituut staff can be found under www.asser.nl/about-the-institute/who-is-who.

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Consultative Council of European Judges	European Commission	International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law, Malta (IJ)
Consumer Complaints Board	European Court of Justice	Internationaal Juridisch Instituut (IJ)
Corvers Procurement Services BV	European Environmental Law Network	International Mediation Institute (IMI)
Council for the Judiciary	European Gaming & Betting Association	International Migration Organisation (IMO)
Court of Appeal in The Hague	Europe Limited	International Committee Red Cross (ICRC)
Court of Rotterdam	European Lotteries	Interpol
CTBTO	European Parliament	Italian Embassy in The Hague, the Netherlands
Debat.nl	European Society for International Law	Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law
	Europol	Koninklijke Nederlandse Vereniging voor Internationaal Recht (KNVIR)
	Federation of Professional Football FIFPro	

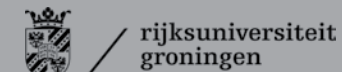
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UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM



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