



## PRESS RELEASE No 152/22

Luxembourg, 15 September 2022

Formal sitting of the Court of Justice

### Partial renewal and entry into service of three new members of the General Court

*Ms Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger and Messrs Goulielmos Valasidis and Steven Verschuur, new Judges of the General Court*

By decisions of 21 December 2021, 27 April 2022, 29 June 2022 and 20 July 2022, the representatives of the Governments of the Member States renewed, for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2028, the mandates of twenty-one judges of the General Court of the European Union, namely of Mr Lauri Madise, Mr Iko Nömm, Ms Anna Marcoulli, Mr Savvas S. Papasavvas, Ms Tuula Pynnä, Mr Heikki Kanninen, Ms Maria José Costeira, Mr Ricardo Da Silva Passos, Mr Geert De Baere, Mr Sten Frimodt Nielsen, Mr Krisztián Kecsmár, Mr Paul Nihoul, Mr Jesper Svenningsen, Mr Marc Van Der Woude, Mr Ion Gâlea, Mr Marc Jaeger, Mr Dean Spielmann, Ms Mirela Stancu, Mr Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, Mr Gerhard Hesse and of Mr Tihamér Tóth.

By decisions of 27 April 2022, 29 June 2022 and 20 July 2022, Ms Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, replacing Mr Viktor Kreuzschitz, Mr Goulielmos (William) Valasidis, replacing Mr Constantinos Iliopoulos, and Mr Steven Verschuur, replacing Mr René Barents, were appointed as Judges of the General Court, for the period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2028.

On the occasion, first, of the termination of service and departure of Messrs Viktor Kreuzschitz, Constantinos Iliopoulos and René Barents and, second, of the swearing in and entry into service of new Members of the institution, a formal sitting will take place today at the seat of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The formal sitting will be broadcast live from 18.00 on the following site:

<http://c.connectedviews.com/01/LiveMeetings/cdj>

#### Presentation of new Members

##### Ms Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger

Ms Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger was born in 1957 in Vienna (Austria) and obtained a law degree in 1980, which she supplemented with studies in international law at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) in 1981.

Ms Tichy-Fisslberger began her professional career at the European Commission in 1982 as a conference interpreter, a position she held until 1988. Simultaneously, she continued her linguistic studies at the Universität Wien (University of Vienna, Austria) and obtained a degree in language studies in 1984.

In 1988, she joined the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Directorate General for European and Economic Affairs as a Counsellor, a position she held until 1993.

In 1990, she was seconded to the Austrian Embassy in Dublin. From mid-1991 to mid-1992, she was Deputy Director for EU Transport Policy within the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Vienna. She was then seconded to the Austrian Embassy in London.

From 1993 to 2000, she was Minister-Counsellor at the Austrian Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels.

On return to the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms Tichy-Fisslberger was called upon to act as Director of General Affairs of the EU and EU Institutions between 2000 and 2003. Thereafter, she was appointed Deputy Director-General for European and Economic Affairs and, from 2007, Director-General for Legal and Consular Affairs. Furthermore, she also acted as National Coordinator on Combatting Human Trafficking between 2009 and 2017.

Since December 2017, she has been Ambassador at the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations Office and to other international organisations at Geneva. In 2020, she was elected President of the United Nations Human Rights Council and in 2021, Chairperson of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

In parallel with those activities, Ms Tichy-Fisslberger has taught law at the Diplomatische Akademie Wien (Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Austria) since 2002. Between 2006 and 2017, she also taught law at the University of Vienna.

Ms Tichy-Fisslberger was appointed as a Judge at the General Court on 15 September 2022.

### **Mr Goulielmos (William) Valasidis**

Born in 1971 in Thessaloniki (Greece), Mr Goulielmos Valasidis obtained a law degree in 1993 at l'Aristoteleio Panepistimio Thessalonikis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece) and supplemented his studies with a master's degree in law from Harvard Law School (faculty of law at Harvard, United States) in 1996.

From 1993 to 1995, he trained as a lawyer in the context of examinations for admission to the legal profession. Admitted to the Thessaloniki Bar in 1996, Mr Valasidis then practised in law firms in Mexico and in the United States.

In 1998 he entered into the service of the Court of Justice of the European Union for the first time, as a Legal Secretary in the chambers of Judge Krateros Ioannou. He then carried out his duties with Judge Vassilios Skouris, who became President of the Court in 2003 and with whom he worked for fifteen years, from 1999 to 2014.

In 2014, he was appointed Director of the Protocol and Information Directorate at the Court, then Director of Communications, which duties he performed until 2022.

An author of legal publications and of editorial works, he also attaches very great importance to the teaching of European Union legal practice, being actively involved in the organisation and running of the European Law Moot Court Competition, as a panel member from 2004 to 2005, then as member and Vice-President of the European Law Moot Court Society from 2006 to 2022. He also participates regularly in national and international conferences.

Mr Valasidis was appointed as a Judge at the General Court on 15 September 2022.

### **Mr Steven Verschuur**

Mr. Steven Verschuur was born in 1977 in Arnhem (Netherlands). He studied law at the Universiteit Utrecht (University of Utrecht, Netherlands) and obtained a master's degree in law there in 2001. He continued his university education at l'université de Liège (University of Liège, Belgium), where he was awarded a diplôme d'études approfondies (diploma of advanced studies) in European law in 2002. He defended his doctoral thesis in law in 2010 at the University of Utrecht.

From 2002 onwards, Mr Verschuur pursued a career as a lawyer with various law firms in the Netherlands and in Belgium, in various areas of EU law such as competition, State aid, trade policy, public procurement or restrictive

measures adopted in the context of the common foreign and security policy of the Union.

He also wrote a considerable number of articles on those subjects for legal journals and publications.

Simultaneously, he was a Deputy Judge in the Civil Law Division of the Rechtbank Zeeland-West-Brabant (District Court, Zeeland-West-Brabant, Netherlands) from 2021 to 2022.

Mr Verschuur was appointed as a Judge at the General Court on 15 September 2022.

Unofficial document for media use, not binding on the General Court.

Press contact: Jacques René Zammit ☎ (+352) 4303 3355

**Stay connected!**

