

Statement of qualifications

*Detailed statement submitted in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4 (a) of the Rome Statute and paragraph 6 of the resolution of the Assembly of States Parties relating to the procedure for the nomination and election of judges to the International Criminal Court.*¹

The Government of the French Republic has decided to nominate Mr. Bruno Cotte, French senior magistrate currently in the post of President of the Criminal Chamber of the Cour de Cassation (Supreme Court of Appeal), to a post of judge at the International Criminal Court with a view to the elections to be held at the sixth Assembly of States Parties in New York from 30 November to 14 December 2007.

Mr. Cotte, whose curriculum vitae is attached in French, English and Spanish, has been chosen for nomination for this election, under the terms of article 36, paragraph 4 (a)(ii), "By the procedure provided for the nomination of candidates for the International Court of Justice in the Statute of that Court." His nomination was presented to the Government by the French group of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in a letter from its President, Mr. Gilbert Guillaume, on 19 July 2007.

Mr. Cotte is being nominated for inclusion in List A covering the candidates with "established competence in criminal law and procedure, and the necessary relevant experience, whether as judge, prosecutor, advocate or in other similar capacity, in criminal proceedings," (see article 36, paragraph 3 (b)(i) and paragraph 5 of the Statute of the Court).

Mr. Bruno Cotte fulfils all the conditions of experience and seniority required for appointment to the highest judicial offices as stipulated by article 36, paragraph 3 (a) of the Statute of the Court.

Mr. Cotte's career of nearly forty years has been devoted to criminal law and procedure.

For the last seven years, he has held the post of President of the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeal, which has led him to deal with international criminal law cases and all litigation falling within the competence of the International Criminal Court.

In his previous position as Director for Criminal Affairs and Pardons at the Ministry of Justice (1984-1990), Mr. Cotte dealt with international mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and issues related to the definition of crimes against humanity and associated litigation.

Mr. Cotte has also held the positions of Attorney General to the Versailles Court of Appeal (May to September 1990), Paris Public Prosecutor (1990-1995) and Counsel for the Prosecution to the Supreme Court of Appeal (1995-2000).

As Chamber President-Senior Judge since July 2003, Mr. Cotte stood in as Acting First President of the Supreme Court of Appeal from 5 March to 30 May 2007.

Within the Supreme Court of Appeal, he has developed contacts with numerous foreign delegations comprising judges from different countries.

Mr. Cotte is a native French speaker. He also speaks English. He is of French nationality.

¹ See resolution ICC-ASP/3/Res.6.

Letter from the President of the French national group at the Permanent Court of Arbitration

Gilbert Guillaume
President of the French Group at the Permanent Court of Arbitration

Paris, 19 July 2007

Sir,

In your letter Ref. No. 9103 CM of 3 July 2007, you informed me that the next session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Statute of the International Criminal Court will be held in New York from 30 November to 14 December 2007. You indicated that the Assembly will elect three judges following the resignations that took place this year, including that of our compatriot, Claude Jorda. You added that the French Government wishes to put forward a new candidate and you sent me the curricula vitae of three judges who had submitted their candidacies. You have since forwarded to me a fourth candidacy.

In your letter of 3 July, you also informed me that the French Government has decided to request the French Group at the Permanent Court of Arbitration to nominate our candidate in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4, of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

I have the honour to inform you that the French Group, after carefully considering the candidacies submitted in the light of the requirements set out in the Statute of the Court, has unanimously decided to nominate as candidate Mr. Bruno Cotte, who is currently the President of the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Appeals (Cour de Cassation).

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed)
Gilbert Guillaume

Mr. Philippe Etienne
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