

President's Message

As I am writing these lines, over 2000 opinion leaders from 89 countries are traveling to Davos to attend the 36th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum. The numbers bespeak a unique success story – not only of the organizing Forum and its leaders but also of the location Switzerland as a gathering place for discussing and exploring solutions to the urgent problems of today's world.

Our organization, ASA, should be encouraged by the WEF's success to continue its efforts to promote Switzerland as an internationally recognized location also for the resolution of international commercial disputes. We are committed to that goal and we are pursuing it by multiple activities, such as (i) active involvement in legislative efforts to keep the legal framework in Switzerland as arbitration-friendly as possible, (ii) pro-active participation as an NGO in the conferences of the UNCITRAL Working Group on Arbitration – i.a. to ensure coordination between Swiss legislation and the jurisdictions that have adopted the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, (iii) the conducting of conferences and seminars the purpose of which is not only to contribute to the development of commercial arbitration in general but also to allow foreign practitioners to become familiar with the specifics of international arbitration in our country and last but not least (iv) by this publication, the ASA Bulletin, which i.a. provides in each issue a unique updated overview of the most important rulings of the Swiss Federal Tribunal in the field of arbitration.

We have been blessed in the past in Switzerland by many beneficial circumstances, among them a long uninterrupted history of neutrality and political stability and the foresight and visions of a group of internationally minded, entrepreneurial academics and practicing lawyers who have put the promotion of international arbitration first on their professional agenda. Let us continue these efforts and adopt them to a world and a competitive environment that is rapidly changing. What has been chosen as the general theme for this year's WEF Meeting, namely 'The Creative Imperative', applies to our organization's activities as well. And two of the WEF's individual sessions' topics will illustrate the spectrum of possibilities open to ASA: they range from 'Keep on Booming' to 'Not Gone, but almost Forgotten'. Your contribution to the first will be much appreciated.

Zurich, January 2006

Markus Wirth