

President's Message

As I have informed the ASA General Assembly on 25 September in Bern, I will step down as ASA President by the end of this year. I believe four years of office are sufficient to make a contribution and move a few things. Now is the time to make place for a successor with new energy and new ideas. I have no doubt that Michael Schneider, the new President elect, has plenty of both.

It was a great pleasure to serve as ASA's President and to witness, and participate in, the numerous initiatives from within our membership to promote arbitration in general and Switzerland as an arbitration-friendly place in particular. I would like to thank my colleagues from the Board, especially my two Vice-Presidents, Michael Schneider and François Knoepfler, for many interesting discussions and their continuous support in keeping ASA and Switzerland on the radar screen of the international arbitration community. My thanks also go to the ASA General Secretary and his staff. It was a pleasure working with them. Also, I would like to address a special thank you to the partners of my law firm, Homburger, who accepted my spending considerable time for ASA – at the cost of billable work! – and who generously provided the necessary infrastructure. And last but not least my thanks go to my assistant, Ms Trachsel, who during my presidency mastered a double job – attorney's secretary and ASA top organizer.

I wish my successor Michael Schneider and the two new Vice-Presidents Elliott Geisinger and Daniel Wehrli the best of luck for their activities and the same support I had the privilege to receive.

Zurich, October 2009

DR. MARKUS WIRTH
ASA PRESIDENT