

Speakers



Mr. Mohamed BENALILOU, Mediator of the Kingdom of Morocco and President of the Association of the Ombudsmen and Mediators of the French speaking countries AOMF

- Mediator of the Kingdom since 13th of December 2018. He was born in 1975, married and father of two children, and holder of a postgraduate degree. He has occupied many important positions in the judiciary field, where he has served as president chamber of the Supreme Court, judge in the Administrative Court, investigating judge at the special Court of Justice, and judge at the court of first instance in Tangier.
- He possesses a rich professional experience through consultations that he has given in the field of Justice and fight against corruption and sustaining Integrity and Transparency, and the practice of responsibilities and administrative missions among which head of pole of the training and administrative affairs to the Highest Council of Judicial Power, director of studies, cooperation and Human Resources in the Ministry of Justice, advisor of the Minister of Justice in Criminal Law Policy, member in the national Committee to examine appeals taxation, and member of the unit of processing financial data.
- He has also performed teaching missions at the Highest Institute of the Judiciary as a professor of criminal law and criminal proceeding and at the college of judicial, economic and social sciences in Rabat.
- At the national level, Mr. Benalilou is a member of the Highest Council of Judicial Power and the Economic Social and Environmental Council.
- At the international and regional level, he is President of the Association of the Ombudsmen and Mediators of the French speaking countries, a member of the International Ombudsman Institute, member of the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen and the Ombudsmen Association of countries members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.



Mr. Igli Totozani, Expert of the Venice Commission and former People's Advocate of Albania

- An expert of Venice Commission and member of Venice Commission's Group of Experts for the Preparation of the Principles on the Protection and Promotion of the Ombudsman Institution (the Venice Principles).
- He was the People's Advocate of the Republic of Albania (2011-2017), President elected for two mandates of AOM, and elected member of several administrative boards of some of the international organizations of Ombudsman and National Human Rights Institutions such as IOI, ENNHRI, AOMF, and AOM. Currently, he is an honorary member of the AOMF, the Association of Francophone Ombudsman and Mediators, and of the AOM, Association of the Ombudsman of the Mediterranean. From 2017 to 2019, he worked as an external expert with the International Organization of the Francophonie in the fields of migration and protection and promotion of human rights defenders. Graduated in Law, he holds a Ph.D. in Public Law from the University of Strasbourg. He lectured Public Law at the University of Tirana. He has contributed to the drafting of a number of reports in the field of human rights, in particular on the penitentiary system and on migration. He has participated as a speaker in numerous international conferences on specific issues of human rights and fundamental freedoms.



Mr. Marc Bertrand, Mediator of Wallonia and Wallonia-Brussels Federation and 2nd Vice-President of the Association of the Ombudsmen and Mediators of the French speaking countries AOMF

- Mediator of Wallonia and Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Belgium) since 8 years ago. He is a legal expert by training, and before being appointed in the position of Mediator by the Parliaments, he successively exercised the duties of legal advisor in the Prime Minister's services, deputy chief of staff of the Prime Minister and finally managing director of the Superior Council of Justice. He is 59 years old and lives in Brussels.





Mr. Peter Tyndall, President of the International Ombudsman Institute IOI and Ombudsman of Ireland

- Ombudsman and Information Commissioner for Ireland since December 2013.
- Mr Tyndall, who is from Dublin, served as Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
- He was Chief Executive of the Arts Council of Wales and Head of Education and Culture for the Welsh Local Government Association.
- He worked in a variety of senior positions in housing and social care. In particular, he developed housing and support services for people with intellectual disabilities.
- He is currently President of the International Ombudsman Institute.



Ms. Simona Granata-Menghini, Director, Secretary of the Venice Commission

- Director / Secretary of the European Commission for Democracy by law (Venice Commission) since February 1st, 2010. She was previously deputy secretary since 2010.
- She has begun her career in the Council of Europe in 1994 as a legal expert to the European Commission of Human Rights of the Council of Europe. From 1977 to 1999, she was the main deputy Mediator for Human Rights in Bosnia -Herzegovina, in Sarajevo and Banja Luka. From 1999 to 2000, she was legal expert in the registry to the European Court of Human Rights. She has joined the Venice Commission in 2001, as head of department of constitutional cooperation.
- Among the countries she worked on, we can mention Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Georgia, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Moldavia, Poland, Russian Federation, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Venezuela. The tackled subjects include constitutional and legislative reforms related to the separation of powers, the Rule of Law, independence of the Judiciary power, judiciary code of ethics, minority protection, freedom of expression, of assembly and association, non-discrimination, the regulation of political parties, the Institutions of the Mediator, the ratification of international treaties, execution of judgments of international court, electoral law, State of Emergency, European Court of Human Rights, oversight of security services, ratifications of credentials of National Delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly, parliamentary immunity.
- She is the author of many publications on jurisprudence of the European Court on Human Rights and on the work of the Venice Commission.
- She holds of a master's degree in Law from the University of Milan, Italy and other diplomas in comparative law (1992, 1993, 1994) from the Comparative Law School of Strasbourg. She was admitted to the Bar in 1995.

Moderator



Ms. Catherine DE BRUECKER, Honorary Federal Mediator

- She was born in 1967, she has graduated from the University Libre of Brussels holder of a complementary master's in European Law from the Institute of European Studies of Brussels.
- She began her career as a lawyer, at the Bar of Nivelles from 1991 to 1995. She turned to legal advisor next to parliament to the region of Brussels-Capital until 1999.
- In September 1999, she joined, as auditor, the Institution of the Federal Mediator where she became in 2001 coordinator of the department « Justice, Interior, Foreign Affairs ». She specialized in the protection of fundamental rights and in the field of asylum and migration.
- 14th July 2005, the House of representatives has appointed her French Federal Mediator among a college of Federal Mediators. She took office on the 8th November 2005 with Guido Schuermans as the Dutch-speaking Federal Mediator.
- 10th October 2013, the Federal Parliament has renewed her to the position of French Federal Mediator for a six years second term, in college with Guido Herman, the Dutch-speaking Federal Mediator.
- From January 2011 until December 2014, Catherine De Bruecker chaired the Belgian network of institutional mediators : www.ombudsman.be
- She has also served on the board of directors of the International Ombudsman Institute from November 2012 to March 2021 and was appointed vice-president of the European Branch of the IOI starting from 2016.

