

**INTERNATIONAL LAW ASSOCIATION
SUMMARY OF 75th CONFERENCE – SOFIA
26 – 30 August 2012**

LAW FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD



The Palace of Justice, Sofia

The theme chosen for the 75th ILA Conference in Sofia is: *'Law for a Peaceful World.'* No title could be more appropriate in our present times of global unrest and uncertainty. No city could be more fitting for the Conference than Sofia – the City of Wisdom.

The Conference website is at <http://www.ila2012.bamp.bg/> .

Professor Margarit Ganev, Secretary-General of the Bulgarian Branch wrote in the Conference brochure:

'I had a dream, and I am happy that it came true! I am exceptionally grateful to my colleagues of the Bulgarian Association of International Law, the official institutions of the Republic of Bulgaria and our partners, who helped us bring this great project to life! Very few people believed that it was plausible for the Bulgarian Branch to host a major international Conference such as this in times of austerity and recession.'

However, the Nay-Sayers have been proved wrong. This has been a remarkably successful and well-attended Conference. The level of scholarship has been high. Our Bulgarian hosts have been welcoming, generous and friendly throughout. The team of secretary assistants and volunteers could not have been more helpful or accommodating.

The Conference coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Bulgarian Association of International Law, which was established on 21 March 1962.

This is the first time in the long history of the ILA that a conference has been held in the Black Sea Region – in that part of Eastern Europe where the Danube flows and the Eastern Mediterranean is so close. Within easy driving distance is the Balkan Mountain Range – Стара планина, *Stara planina* or 'Old Mountain'. The Balkan range runs 560 km from the Vrashka Chuka/Vrska Cuka Peak on the border between Bulgaria and eastern Serbia eastward through central Bulgaria to Cape Emine on the Black Sea. The highest peak is Botev (2,376 m), located in the Central Balkan National Park, which lies in the heart of Bulgaria. As Lord Mance pointed out in his opening address, the Balkan mountain range gives its name to the Balkan Peninsula. *Stara planina* has played an enormous role in the history of Bulgaria and the development of the Bulgarian nation and people.

Sofia (Serдика) is one of the oldest capitals in Europe – a favourite place of Constantine the Great.

Professor Christine Chinkin, Director of Studies, told the Full Council meeting before the Conference that the ILA looks very healthy. The ILA Committees and Study Groups are at the heart of the work of the ILA. Both public and private international law subjects are well represented. 21 of the 22 committees are holding open sessions. Only the committee on International Family Law will not do so. Many of the committees are also due to hold closed sessions. 6 of the 7 Study Groups are holding sessions. Two of them are having their first sessions: the Conduct of Hostilities under International Humanitarian Law; and Socially Responsible Investment.

There have been invitations to hold future biennial conferences as follows:

2014: American Branch (Washington: 6 – 12 April), a conference to be held concurrently with the conference of the American Society of International Law (the 2014 Conference had been due to be held in Japan but the recent earthquake and tsunami made this impractical; and the Americans had generously advanced the date of their offer to hold a Conference);

2016: South African Branch: (Durban);

2018: Australia

2020 (hopefully): Japan, which would coincide with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Japanese Branch of the ILA.

On Sunday evening there was a welcome reception at the National Palace of Justice. The event was well-attended and the atmosphere lively and convivial. The reception was addressed by the President of the Constitutional Court, **Professor Dr Evgeni Tanchev**, and the Vice-President of the Bulgarian Supreme Court of Cassation, **Grozdan Iliev** (on behalf of its President, **Professor Dr Lazar Gruev**. Responding to the warm welcome given by these senior legal figures, **Lord Mance**, Chairman of the Executive Council, expressed the pleasure and gratitude of all those present to be attending the Conference in the fine and imposing surroundings of the National Palace of Justice in Sofia. He warned delegates not to underestimate our Bulgarian hosts. Team GB may have secured more medals at the recent Olympic Games in London: however, the medals won by the Bulgarians were in the traditional martial arts of boxing and fencing!

At the Opening Ceremony on Monday morning, **Lord Mance** reminded the packed hall in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences that the ILA had been founded in Brussels in 1873, 139 years ago, and five years before Bulgaria secured her independence from the Ottoman Empire. An ILA conference was our equivalent of the Olympic Games: hard fought and disciplined yet conducted peacefully. He referred to the strong Balkan resonance of the Conference. In the Conference pack there were two volumes: the first on Biodiversity in the Black Sea by Angual Anastassov; and the second comprising a series of papers, of which the first was an introduction by **Professor Alexander Yankov**, President of the Bulgarian Association of International Law. There was also a DVD about Sofia which explains the history and cultural heritage of the city.

Lord Mance said that many of the subjects under discussion at this Conference arise from situations of conflict. This was only to be expected in the modern world. He referred to the 74th Conference held in The Hague under the Presidency of **Professor Nico Schrijver** to whom he paid tribute for his leadership and guidance over recent years. The inspiration for The Hague conference had come in large part from the towering legal figure of Hugo Grotius.

Lord Mance and his wife **Lady Justice Arden** had yesterday taken a picnic up the cable car and onto the Balkan Mountain 'Vitosha'. They enjoyed magnificent views of the city. The weather, whilst hot, was perfect for such a trip.

He said that the conference website is unusual because it includes a page on the culinary programme for the conference; and some of the delegates were to be invited to appear on television! This is the passage:

Hello: My name is Ivan Zvezdev. For more than 10 years I have been hosting the most popular culinary TV shows in Bulgaria. I am very happy that my company "Zvezdev's Kitchen" has been chosen as a partner of the 75th ILA Conference. Together with the doyen of the Bulgarian restaurant business Nikola Antikadjiev and my colleague Ivan Kerekov we will offer you the best and most typical of Bulgarian cuisine. I am looking forward to seeing you from 26 to 30 August in Sofia! Some of you will be invited as special guests to my TV show "Zvezdev's Kitchen" and we'll be cooking together!

Lord Mance said that there were over 420 delegates to the Conference. About 300 of these are members of the ILA. Over 40 branches are represented. These are higher proportions than at many recent conferences. He welcomed the delegates from the newly constituted branches of Nepal and Chile; and he expressed his thanks for all the hard preparatory work done by the Bulgarian Branch of the ILA, in particular **Professor Margarit Ganev, Professor Tsvetana Kamenova, Delyana Doseva and Margarita Oysolova.**

Lord Mance then referred to the recent regional conference in Taipei. This had been a great success; and had focused on regional issues such as the International Law of the Sea, Environmental Law and Economic Law. He spoke of the importance of the topics of the various committees and study groups. For example, we live in a financially precarious world where there is not enough 'whisky and brandy on the raft' to go around.

Lord Mance paid tribute again to Professor Nico Schrijver for the stalwart work that he had undertaken during his period in office as President of the ILA; congratulated him upon his election as a senator of the Dutch Senate; and invited him to hand over the insignia of office to the new President, Professor Alexander Yankov, Chair of the Bulgarian Branch.

Professor Nico Schrijver said:

Ever since 1873, the biannual ILA conferences perform in international law the function like the **Olympic Games** have in sport. And, indeed, also we compete and excel in many fields, no matter whether they relate to private, commercial or public international law.

Therefore, now that my final minutes as your president are approaching it feels like bringing the torch from The Hague to Sofia. It is a great pleasure to do so, also since there are so many similarities between the Netherlands and Bulgaria.

Let me explain.

Both countries are situated in a delta of international rivers, are relatively small and, therefore, have a strong international orientation. Both countries have a longstanding attachment to the rule of law in international affairs and have made significant contributions to the progressive development of international law and its codification.

In 2010 we assembled in the Hague, the city of peace and justice and also referred to as the legal capital of the world. We now meet in Sofia, a city with an impressively long history and with great charm and indeed the city of wisdom.

The programme of ILA 2010 in The Hague was entitled *De iure humanitatis*: on the law of humankind - Peace, justice and international law. The theme of ILA 2012 in Sophia is "Law for a Peaceful World", a logical follow-up from The Hague.

Moreover, dear colleagues, in 2010 we met in the country of birth of Hugo Grotius, we now meet in the country of birth of ... **Alexander Yankov**.

My personal association with professor and Judge Yankov goes back deep into the previous century, when I participated in 1981 as a young academic in the programme of the International Law Commission, and listened to, met with and had my certificate of attendance signed by the chairperson of the International Law Commission Alexander Yankov. Ever since I had the privilege of being in touch with him.

Dear colleagues, the field of international law continues to face many challenges. What can indeed be the contribution of international law for a peaceful world? What does have international law have to offer to the millions of oppressed people in the world, no matter whether they live in Syria, in conflict-torn areas in Africa, or in Palestine: what implementation are we giving to the new principle of the ‘responsibility to protect’, at national and international level? How to avoid one-sided, unilateral interventions in international affairs and have these replaced by collective responses, in a legitimate, transparent and effective way? And, dear colleagues, in our International Law Association peace does not only mean peaceful settlement of international disputes and absence of war, but also global justice freedom from fear and freedom of want for all. And therefore I ask you: what perspective international law has to offer to the nearly one billion people still living in abject poverty, in violation of their universal human rights?

And: what role has international law to play in environmental conservation and sustainable development, or – in the words of the recent Rio+20 UN Summit – in *The Future We Want*, the appealing name of the final document of June 2012 and adopted in Brazil where we as ILA were hosted so well by the Brazilian branch in 2008? Furthermore, what role can private international law play in the harmonization of laws and in the matter of recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters?

Many people in the world expect answers, if not the answers from the ILA. And year after year, ever since 1873, we give substantive answers based upon the principles of international law and employing its toolbox, public and private, in our conference proceedings (see here the last one from the Hague) and through the admirable work of our committees and study groups. In this way the ILA is much more than a meeting place, the global market place of international lawyers, it is also as our Constitution so aptly provides – the association for (I quote) ‘the development...and the furtherance of international understanding and respect for international law’ (end of quote).

I am glad that we meet in Bulgaria, a country that can at last, after several dark Cold War decades, also fully enjoy its freedom.

I am honoured that my successor as president is nobody less than Alexander Yankov, who has made such a magnificent contribution to international law. Dear colleagues, I wish to thank all of you for the trust you put in the Dutch branch and in me personally. I for my part will have very fond memories of my co-operation with the Executive Council, the Full Council, with all members and particularly with the Secretariat and with our excellent chair, Lord Jonathan Mance. Thank you all very much! This is the moment to transfer to professor Yankov the medal of the President of the ILA, accompanied by some flowers in the Dutch national colour and made from the same material as our wooden shoes so that my tulips can last throughout Professor Yankov’s presidency and beyond. That does of course not apply to the Dutch cheese which I also bring to Professor Yankov and his family.

Professor Nico Schrijver then handed the President’s medal of office to Professor Alexander Yankov together with a bouquet of orange-coloured tulips (orange being the national colour of the Netherlands). He also gave the new President a portion of Dutch cheese.

Professor Alexander Yankov, in his new role as President of the ILA, welcomed all the delegates to the Conference. He said that it was appropriate for Bulgaria to host this Conference in a year that

was also the 50th Anniversary of the Bulgarian Association of International Law. He referred to the period between 1972 and 1976 when he was the Bulgarian Ambassador to London. There he met Lord Wilberforce, who suggested to him that he should some day host a Conference in Bulgaria. Then he had met Lord Slynn of Hadley who had made a similar suggestion. Now the Conference was a reality, taking place for the first time in the Balkan region of Eastern Europe and close to the Black Sea.

Dr Diana Kovacheva, Minister of Justice, then addressed the Opening Ceremony. She said that the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences had been established in the eighteenth century and she welcomed all delegates to this iconic building.

She said that she had been a director of Transparency International for ten years. She described her studies and said that her teachers had been Professor Alexander Yankov and Professor Tsvetana Kamenova.

She referred to the complexity of the modern world, to the phenomenon of globalisation, to terrorism and to the rapid expansion of technology. She said that the heart of these problems and issues could be answered by the heart of international law. There should be a balance between security and human rights protection.

Mr Georgi Kolev, the President of the Supreme Administrative Court, added his welcome to the delegates and accompanying persons attending the Conference and wished everyone well with their deliberations during the coming week.

Professor Tsvetana Kamenova, Head of the Bulgarian Programme Committee for the Conference, drew attention to the detailed programme that lay ahead. She invited participants to attend the Panel discussions and to visit the Poster presentations during the lunch breaks.

The Conference Sessions were held in Court Rooms (Halls) in the National Palace of Justice. This is one of the most remarkable buildings in the city of Sofia, situated at the beginning of the pivotal boulevard named 'Vitosha'. As the Conference website describes it:

Following a period of continuous construction between 1929 and 1940, the Palace of Justice in Sofia met the immediate need of placing under one roof all courts of the capital city which had been previously scattered in private and unsuitable buildings: the Palace is now a true temple of justice in Bulgaria.

On **Monday** afternoon, 27 August 2012, there were the following working and complementary sessions:

International Protection of Consumers
Recognition/Non-recognition in International Law
Human Rights Law
International Commercial Arbitration
Cultural Heritage Law
Responsibility of International Organisations (Study Group)

There were also Panel Sessions on:

Nationality in International and Constitutional Law
Opportunities and Challenges to the Legal Regime of Chemical Weapons Convention
The Arctic Paradox (continued from The Hague Conference in 2010)
State Immunity

The Committee Reports are available at <http://www.ila-hq.org>.

In the evening of Monday 27 August, there was a well-attended reception at the National Art Gallery, a magnificent building that had once been a royal palace.

On **Tuesday** 28 August 2012, there were the following working and complementary sessions:

Islamic Law & International Law
Space Law
International Civil Litigation and the Interests of the Public
Reform of the UN in the 21st Century
Baselines under the International Law of the Sea
Principles on the Engagement of Domestic Courts with International Law (Study Group)

The Legal Principles relating to Climate Change
Teaching of International law (Interest Group)
Use of Force
Rights of Indigenous Peoples
The Use of Private Law Principles for the Development of International Law (Study Group)

There were also Panel Sessions on:

International Law and Unilateral Application of Sanctions
Proliferation of International Courts and Tribunals
Regional Trade Agreements in the WTO and in International Law

In the evening of Tuesday 28 August, there was a reception offered by the European Society of International Law. There was also the traditional 'Embassy Night' when delegates and guests might be invited to receptions held at a number of embassies in the capital.

On **Wednesday** 29 August 2012, there were the following working and complementary sessions:

International Securities Regulation
Reparation for Victims of Armed Conflict
International Trade Law
Non-State Actors

Nuclear Weapons, Non-Proliferation & Contemporary International Law
Feminism and International Law
International Monetary Law
Intellectual Property & Private International Law
Socially Responsible Investment

There were also Panel Sessions on:

New Developments in ICSID Arbitration
Private International Law Harmonization in the EU: How far will EU go?

In the evening of Wednesday, 29 August participants enjoyed a 'Conference Dinner' at the Sheraton Hotel Balkan.

On **Thursday** 30 August 2012, there were the following working and complementary sessions:

International Law on Sustainable Development

Role of Soft Law Instruments in International Investment Law (Study Group)
Sovereign Insolvency (Study Group)
The Conduct of Hostilities under International Humanitarian Law (Study Group)

There were also panel discussions on:

Nuclear Power Plants and Environmental Security
International Legal Regime of the Danube and the Waterway Transport System, River-Sea.

The Closing Ceremony was held at Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski' (a University founded in 1888).

Guests and participants were welcomed by the Rector of Sofia University, **Professor Ivan Ilchev**; and a violinist and guitarist played at the Ceremonial Hall of Sofia University.

Professor Atanas Semov opened the Closing Ceremony and introduced the Rector of Sofia University Professor Ivan Ilchev.

Professor Ivan Ilchev, the Rector of the University, then welcomed the delegates to the University. He commented that it was a great honour for Sofia to be visited by so many eminent lawyers from across the world. The meeting was a fitting starting point for the one year celebration of the 125th year of the University and the 120th year of the Law Faculty. He expressed a wish that the delegates would all return to Sofia in the future.

Lord Mance then took the chair of the ceremony. He commented that it was a great pleasure to be at the University in Sofia as Chair of the Association and to hear speeches in both French and English. He then introduced the Mayor of Sofia.

Ms. Yordanka Fandakova, the Mayor of Sofia, congratulated the Bulgarian Branch on its organisation of the Conference and commended the Association for resolving that it be held in Sofia. She especially thanked Professor Yankov for his vision in making the Conference a reality. She noted that Sofia was now a truly European capital city and a marvellous destination. She commented that respect for the law should be made a personal cause of all citizens. Public international law in particular was common to all states and was central to peaceful relations. Bulgaria was one of the oldest states in Europe and had a very long history of respect for the law. As early as 311 AD an edict had proclaimed the right openly to express faith. She was delighted that the delegates were the guests of Sofia and hoped that there had been time to enjoy the deep history and culture of Sofia.

Lord Mance then welcomed the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, welcomed delegates and expressed his delight at being able to address such a distinguished group in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. The conference had been very successful and had benefited greatly from the excellent organisation led by Professor Yankov. Professor Yankov was honoured in Bulgaria and elsewhere as one of the greatest Bulgarian international lawyers. His work had spanned two centuries and had inspired students in Bulgaria and beyond. He commented that to serve the noble goals of the ILA involved great challenge, particularly as upheavals in the Mediterranean took place as dictatorships were replaced by democracies. In Europe there were political and legal challenges. However there was a shared desire for freedom and an ability to share the learned experience of human rights and international legal protections. It was important not to close doors, but to open them for those less fortunate. In Sofia we enjoyed the protection of the highest standards of human rights protection and therefore had an opportunity to assist neighbours to progress. That progress was possible was demonstrated by the startling achievements made by former Soviet satellites. However there

remained formidable challenges. For example the treaty body system at the UN had doubled in size since the year 2000 but the resources put into the protection of human rights had not increased as well and only 16% of states reported on time.

There was also a serious challenge of non-proliferation. The Minister hoped that as non-proliferation gained momentum it would receive support from the ILA and its members. It was also necessary to ensure that state obligations, including state obligations under the ICC, were met in full. As a recent example, not all states spoke strongly in the case of recent challenges in Libya, although some including Bulgaria did.

The work done by the ILA for 120 years has been very important. Bulgaria is a country that has always held dear the need to promote international law. International law had served to protect Bulgaria in the past and continued to do so. It is important to work with the UN in order to advance international law in the future.

He thanked the members of the ILA and the University for the invitation to speak at the closing ceremony.

Lord Mance then invited Professor Ganev to speak.

Professor Margarit Ganev, Secretary-General of ILA-Bulgarian branch, commented that 10 years ago the concept of an ILA conference being held in Bulgaria was merely an idea. Today the ILA was here and the Bulgarian Branch had successfully hosted the ILA and its colleagues. Bulgaria had long had a connection to the ILA. In fact, Lord Slynn of Hadley was given honorary membership of the Bulgarian Branch of the ILA to recognise his long contribution to the Bulgarian Branch. The Branch also wished to thank Lord Mance for his extraordinary contribution to the 75th Conference in Sofia and offered him honorary membership of the Bulgarian Branch. The Branch wished to offer honorary membership to Professor Nico Schrijver for his contribution to the conference. Professor Ganev then awarded certain other honorary memberships and again thanked the ILA.

Lord Mance then took the floor. He commented that he had great pleasure attending the closing ceremony in such a magnificent Hall surrounded by the music of Brahms. He noted that modern judges value the connection with the academic world highly. The conference had been a great success for all members of the ILA. The theme was appropriate and combined well with the work of the ancillary sessions.

Sofia was not only a city of wisdom but a place where the edict of tolerance was adopted in 311 AD. On behalf of the ILA he thanked the Bulgarian Association under the leadership of Professor Yankov, and also the other members of the Branch who had combined to make the event such a success. He particularly thanked the junior assistants of the Branch, including Delyana Doseva and Margarita Oysolova for their sterling efforts. The venues were magnificent and we moved from one marvellous building to another. The surroundings of the Palace of Justice were most appropriate for the conference.

Lord Mance wished to pay particular thanks to Professor Christine Chinkin who was retiring as Director of Studies, and to welcome Professor Marcel Brus into that role.

Lord Mance commented that the ILA does, and should, reflect the expertise of its members. Membership of the Association is open to all who are interested in international law in all its aspects, and is not limited to those with lengthy track records of publications. It is necessary to canvass and seek new members and to ensure that they are encouraged to participate, for example as research assistants. It is also necessary to continue to ensure that the Association offers opportunity to its members and value to its branches between conferences.

The 75th Conference had been a worthy successor to previous conferences. The Conference would return to Washington in 2014, and then to South Africa in 2016, followed by Australia in 2018. Lord Mance expressly noted the position of the Japanese Branch which had been unable to continue with its plans to host a conference following the devastating tsunami event. It was hoped that Japan would have an opportunity to host again in the future.

Lord Mance then invited the assembly of delegates to consider the draft resolutions, each of which had been considered by the steering committee.

The Resolutions from seven Committees were then presented and adopted without dissent:

1. Baselines under the International Law of the Sea (*introduced by Bruce Mauleverer*)
2. International Civil Litigation and the Interests of the Public (*Chris Ward*)
3. International Monetary Law (*David Wyld*)
4. International Protection of Consumers (*Susana Vieira*)
5. Rights of Indigenous Peoples (*Ralph Wilde*)
6. International Space Law (*Jeremy Carver*)
7. International Law on Sustainable Development (*Hennie Strydom*)

Lord Mance then invited the Director of Studies, Professor Christine Chinkin, to speak.

Professor Chinkin commented that she had been the Director of Studies for 8 years, with oversight of committees and study groups. This had been an excellent conference with very productive academic work.

She said that, from her perspective, it had been a very good Conference. At the First meeting of the Full Council, she had said that the working programme was in a healthy position; and she had predicted that this would be a successful Conference. Her prediction had proved to be correct.

21 of the 22 Committees had had open working sessions. 19 of them were engaged in work in progress or were submitting final reports. Only the Committee on Family Law did not attend the Conference. The Committee on Nuclear Weapons, Non-Proliferation and Contemporary International Law had been attending its first Conference. Three Committees had completed their mandates; and four Committees had completed an important part of their mandates. In the latter case, these Committees will continue their work. There will be new mandates as necessary. Six out of the seven Study Groups held open sessions. Two of these Study Groups, UN Reform and Responsibility of International Organisations, had completed their work.

She thanked the Bulgarian Branch, Professor Yankov, Professor Ganev and the assistants, particularly Delyana and Margarita. She noted that the academic work was of broad ranging and high standard, as reflected in the resolutions just presented. That reflected the work and role of the ILA, which worked towards law for a peaceful world.

Discussions during the conference were often lively and controversial and produced a clear body of work which would ultimately be recorded in the Conference Report. The work of the study groups was particularly valuable. Additionally, many committees held closed sessions to plan their future work. The Conference had an ambitious work programme which had proved to be very successful. Professor Chinkin expressly thanked the Chairs and officers of the Committees who devoted so much time to the success of the Association. She thanked Dr Sarah Nouwen and Dr Christopher Ward for their role in co-ordinating the reporting of the Conference, and for the editorial work to follow. She also thanked the session reporters for their diligent and very arduous work without which there would be no record of the conference at all.

Professor Chinkin finally offered her sincere thanks to Juliet Fussell and Natalie Pryer for their assistance not just during the conference, but throughout her tenure as Director of Studies.

Lord Mance then offered his personal thanks to Professor Chinkin for her extraordinary work over the past 8 years. He then called upon Professor Yankov to speak.

Professor Yankov, the new President of the ILA, began by noting that this week the members of the Association had gathered for the 75th Conference, exploring issues of the potential contribution of law for a peaceful world. He offered thanks to the members for their active participation, noting that their presence in Sofia fulfilled a great dream both personally and for the Bulgarian Branch. The Conference was held closer to Eastern Europe, and to the Danube River with all its complexity, the most international river in the world. It was fitting to conclude the conference in the seat of learning in Sofia at the University of Sofia.

Professor Yankov commented that he had devoted his whole life to public international law and the rule of law. He had worked in many different capacities. It was a great honour to be elected as a representative of the Bulgarian Branch as President of the ILA, and this was also an honour for the Bulgarian Branch. He owed a great debt to his colleagues, all of whom were listed in the programme for the Conference. The Bulgarian Branch was very active and he thanked its members. He also thanked Lord Mance and all at the ILA who had assisted to bring the Conference to reality. He particularly thanked the Japanese Branch which had been unable to host the Conference, opening an opportunity for the Bulgarian Branch at short notice. He looked forward very much to the Washington Conference in 2014.

Professor Wedgwood, President of the American Branch of the ILA, said that she was looking forward to welcoming delegates to Washington in 2014. The Conference was intended to be provocative and substantial.

Lord Mance then added his voice to the call to attend Washington in 2014. He again thanked the members for making the Bulgarian Conference such a great success, and declared the 75th Conference closed, to the strains of the anthem of the EU, 'Ode to Joy' from Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

Following the Closing Ceremony there was a **Farewell Reception** in the gardens of Sofia University.

It is evident from the tributes paid at the Closing Session that all concerned regarded this conference as one of the most successful and scholarly in the long and distinguished history of the International Law Association. That indeed is high praise, and praise which is entirely justified.

Bruce Mauleverer QC