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Speakers' biographical notes

Paul BERMAN joined the Legal Service of the Council of the European Union in February 2012 where he is the Director responsible for Institutional issues. After his studies at Oxford and Geneva, Mr Berman qualified as a Barrister (advocate) and joined the legal cadre of the UK Diplomatic Service in 1991. As well as working as a legal adviser at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, he has served as Legal Adviser to the Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law at the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva (1996 to 1998), senior adviser to the UK Attorney General on international, ECHR and EU law (2000 to 2002), Legal Counsellor and Head of the Legal Section at the United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels (2002 to 2007) and as Director of the UK Cabinet Office European Law Division (2008 to 2012). His work has covered legal advice on a wide range of international, EU and public law issues including multilateral and bilateral negotiations and litigation before international, European and domestic courts. He was closely involved in promoting the adoption of the EU Guidelines on International Humanitarian Law and represented the United Kingdom in the Intergovernmental Conference Legal Experts Groups for the Constitutional Treaty and the Treaty of Lisbon.

Stéphane KOLANOWSKI holds a Law Degree and a Master in Laws (LL.M.) in Public International Law. He joined the ICRC Legal Division (Geneva) in 1997, where he worked on different issues, such as Human Rights, impunity and reparation, as well as on some arms related issues. In 1999, he participated in the build-up of the ICRC Delegation to the EU and NATO, a Delegation in which he is still working today as a Senior Legal Adviser. He is responsible for following relevant legal developments in EU and NATO policies and operations and for promoting and disseminating International Humanitarian Law for several audiences. In 1999 he also initiated the cooperation with the College of Europe, leading to the organisation of the yearly Bruges Colloquium.

Dr Elzbieta MIKOS-SKUZA is an associate professor in Public International Law at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw, its Vice-Dean in 2008 – 2012. She established specific courses on International Humanitarian Law, on State Responsibility and on case law of the International Court of Justice. For thirty years, she has been volunteering with the Polish Red Cross. In 2004 – 2012 she was a Vice-President of the Polish Red Cross and in 1999 – 2012 - President of the Polish Red Cross Commission for Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law. Dr Mikos-Skuza is also a member of the International Humanitarian Fact Finding Commission. She is the author of numerous publications on Public International Law and International Humanitarian Law and co-author of the collection of 73 documents on IHL, published in Polish language.

Prof Toni PFANNER holds a PhD in Economics (University of St. Gallen) as well as a Master in Laws (University of Bern) and a Master in Business Administration (University of St. Gallen). Since 2002, he is Adjunct Professor in International Law (St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami) and teaches International Humanitarian Law in several universities (Geneva, Lausanne, Venice). He is the author and editor of numerous books and articles on the laws of armed conflict as well as humanitarian action and policy. He was Redactor in Chief of the International Review of the Red Cross and Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Legal Division. He headed numerous important ICRC Delegations (Iraq, Chad, South Africa, Indonesia) and was special representative and director (a.i.) of the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen (Germany) for victims of Nazi persecutions.