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MEDIA ADVISORY

ASIL HOSTS GERMANY'S TOP LEGAL ADVISOR FOR INT'L LAW

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Society of International Law (ASIL) will host **Ambassador Dr. Georg Witschel**, Director General and Head of the Legal Department at the German Foreign Office and Legal Advisor of the Federal Government on International Law, for a luncheon talk on *International Law and the War on Terrorism: A European's View*. The event will take place Tuesday, **September 23, 2008, noon - 2:00 p.m.**, at ASIL headquarters, **2223 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC** (Dupont Circle). Members of the press and public are invited to attend by registering at

http://www.asil.org/activities_calendar.cfm?action=detail&rec=36.

Ambassador Witschel, a career diplomat, joined the German foreign service in 1983. He has served, among others, as the German Federal Government Commissioner for Combating International Terrorism and as political advisor in the Federal Chancellor's Office. Witschel has a Ph.D. in International Law, and his current position is the U.S. equivalent of the Legal Advisor to the Secretary of State.

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Commentary on his remarks will be given by ASIL member **Michael J. Matheson**, George Washington University Law School professor and former Principal Deputy Legal Adviser and Acting Legal Adviser to the U.S. Secretary of State.

The event on September 23 will begin with lunch at noon, followed by the talk and then a brief question and answer session. ASIL hosts such programs on an occasional basis as an informational service to bring experts on current international law topics together with those who have an interest in them.

ASIL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization. It was founded in 1906, chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950, and has held Category II Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1993. ASIL's mission is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Society's 4,000 members (from nearly 100 countries) comprise attorneys, academics, corporate counsel, judges, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, international civil servants, students, and others interested in international law.

ASIL events, such as *International Law and the War on Terrorism: A European's View*, generally deal with one of the Society's seven thematic focal areas: Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, International Institutions, International Law and Development, International Security, Science and Technology, Trade and Investment, and Transnational Litigation and Arbitration. For more information, visit www.asil.org.