



Vespasian V. PELLA

(1946 – 1951)

President Vespasian V. Pella was born in Bucharest (Romania) on January 17th, 1897.

Like the Count Carton de Wiart, he appears as one of the founders of the International Association of Penal Law, in Paris, in 1924.

He studied at the University of Paris and he became a Criminal Law Professor at the University of Jassy, and then, at the University of Bucharest, where he occupied the chair of Criminal Law.

In 1924, he founded the Romanian national Group of the Association.

On the occasion of the First International Congress of Penal Law (Brussels, 1926), he prompted the vote for the creation of the International Bureau for the Unification of Criminal Law, in which he served as Secretary General until his death.

As Secretary of the Organizing Committee, he played an important role in the organization of the Second International Congress of Penal Law (Bucharest, 1929).

In 1946, in Paris, at the first meeting of the IAPL, after World War II, the Count Carton de Wiart hand him over the Presidency. In his capacity as president, he organized the Fourth International Congress of Penal Law, held in Geneva.

As representative of Romania in the League of Nations, his influence in this area is well-known and outstanding.

President V. Pella was an ardent supporter of the creation of an international criminal jurisdiction. On the occasion of the International Conference which took place in Geneva (1937-1938), he took part in the signing of the Treaty aimed at the fight against terrorism and in the Protocol which established an International Criminal Court.

The events that took place before and after the Second World War prevented countries from ever ratifying these treaties.

After the Congress of Geneva, Vespasian V. Pella moved to New York. Due to the distance, he was unable to fully perform his duties as President of the Association. In 1951, Professor Paul Cornil was given the role of Associate President, and in 1953 he was appointed President.

Vespasian V. Pella died in New York on August 24th, 1960.

References:

- V. S. Sasserath, *Le Président Vespasian Pella*, RIDP 1953, p. 13 et seq.
- Mircea Dutu, *Vespasian V. Pella (1897-1952). Founder of the international criminal law. Promoter of the unification of the criminal law. Architect of the international criminal justice*, Universul Juridic, Bucharest, 2012.
- Links:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespasian_Pella

<http://150.uaic.ro/personalitati/drept/vespasian-v-pella/?lang=en>