

## **Team Report – Team 16**

### ***Written Round***

It all started as many things do: We had absolutely no idea – neither of international law nor of how to write a memorial. When reviewing the Case for the first time, we sat together and gathered ideas, many of which were entirely based on our legal understanding gained from studying domestic law. Luckily, they did not lead us too far off track: what followed was an intense time of researching, reading and reflecting over and over again. Along the way, we often found the ingenuity and precision of legal work conducted by others to be our inspiration to at least strive for such a high standard. Digging deep into the legal subject matter, we quickly realised that the genuine difficulty did not necessarily lie in coming up with an answer for a specific legal problem, but rather in assembling a great many of these answers in such a way, so that a coherent and convincing overall solution could emerge. What we are truly grateful for is the opportunity to have faced all these challenges together as team, enabling us not just to learn from each other, but also to form a strong bond that will undoubtedly bear a lasting value.

### ***Oral Round***

Once we had successfully submitted our memorials, we turned to what our coach had announced to us as “the rewarding part” of the competition. And indeed, we immediately felt the excitement that lay in now getting to present and defend the ideas and arguments we had developed – some more meticulously, some less – over the past months. To us, the oral phase stood out perhaps most prominently due to a more frequent cycle of us overhauling vast parts of our submissions week by week. It was especially the valuable feedback we received from the law firms greatly supporting us as team sponsors that allowed us to continuously subject our work to critical review. But of course, all preparation must come to an end at some point: after we had already been teased a bit by the opening dinner at the refectory of the Peace Palace in The Hague, the four oral rounds our team participated in lived up to their promises. Finally meeting and competing against the other teams that had been working on the case for so long was truly thrilling. Somewhat to our surprise but most certainly to our great honour, this experience was only bested by the opportunity to participate in the Finals as Best Respondent, pleading in front of three incredible judges at the Peace Palace. Looking back on the entire competition, we could not have wished for a better ending to our journey. An ending that allowed us to grasp what we believe to be the essence of the Telders competition: stepping out of your comfort zone, finding inspiration in the work of the brilliant people around you and going for it all as a team.

*Paul Rehm, Frieder Schwarze*