

## **Paul Ernst, Director of Internal Audit, Council of Europe**

Born in 1946 in Berlin.

I am German citizen and hold a doctorate in law. I began my professional career in the German Federal Ministry of the Interior where eventually I became Private Secretary to the Parliamentary Secretary of State.

In 1983 I moved to the German Court of Audit (Bundesrechnungshof), where I was responsible for the audit of a number of different governmental activities: for instance the planning, coordinating and implementation of horizontal performance audits, inter alia of the entire personnel administration and management systems of all Departments of the Federal Government. As a Counsellor-Member of the Court of Audit, I also led the audit of financial management and government operations in the areas of the Navy, Military Information Technology and the Federal Office of Defence Technology and Procurement. Subsequently I was responsible for the audit of the Federal Government's management of its shareholding in the railway company Deutsche Bahn AG.

From 1989, in addition to the above responsibilities, I was also the Director of External Audit for a number of UN Organisations, such as UNOG and UNIDO.

Since January 2001 I have been enjoying the honour and challenges of being the first Internal Auditor of the Council of Europe. In this function I have been successful in improving the governance of the Organisation inter alia by establishing an independent audit function, reforming the external audit arrangements, creating an audit committee, introducing a declaration of interests for managers, and attaching a statement of internal control to the annual financial statements. Work on organisation-wide risk assessment and a fraud awareness and prevention policy is in progress.

I have gained accreditation from the Institute of Internal Audit in Quality Assessment, qualifying me to evaluate if an Internal Audit service is performing in accordance with IIA Standards.

I am a member of the Audit Committee at OSCE.

Languages:

German – mother tongue

English – fluent

French – good knowledge