

## **ICC - (PGA Member) Bayr pleased with expansion of the Rome Statute Foreign Policy**

### **Committee sends extension of jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court for "the Crime of Aggression" on its way**

Vienna (OTS / SK) - "I welcome the amendment to the Rome Statute thus expanding jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court," said Petra Bayr, SPÖ-area spokeswoman for global development, today's decision on the Foreign Affairs Committee. Through the adoption of the Kampala amendments the ICC will be able to prosecute the Crime of Aggression, in addition to the three current offenses of crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. Thus, it is possible to hold leaders accountable if they have committed an act of aggression, that has violated the prohibition of the use of force of the UN Charter. "As soon as 30 states have ratified the Amendment, the ICC stands on four sturdy legs" Bayr is convinced. A next expansion of the powers could be the punishment of ecocide, as environmental crimes.

In addition to this, today's committee meeting closed a gap in international law: "In the future, the use of poison and Dum-Dum missiles will be prohibited in non-international conflicts," says Bayr. In international conflicts, the use of which was already prohibited by the Geneva Protocol of 1925 (poison) and the Hague Convention (weapons that cause unnecessary suffering) in 23e. Bayr has already called last summer for a modification of the Roman Statute, inter alia, in posing a parliamentary question. Following the adoption in the Foreign Affairs Committee, the amendments will be adopted in the next plenary session of the National Council.

#### **Translated from:**

[http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS\\_20140409\\_OTS0209/internationaler-straengerichtshof-bayr-ueber-erweiterung-des-roemer-statuts-erfreut](http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20140409_OTS0209/internationaler-straengerichtshof-bayr-ueber-erweiterung-des-roemer-statuts-erfreut)