



Simona Rocchi

Chief Legal Adviser, Director Legal Office

Simona Rocchi assumed the post of Chief Legal Adviser, Director Legal Office for the NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency on 1 July 2012.

The Chief Legal Adviser reports directly to the General Manager and provides advice on all matters that may have legal implications for the functions, operations and activities of the NCI Agency. In particular, the Chief Legal Adviser has the prime responsibility to provide legal advice on all issues concerning procurement activities, export control activities and cooperation agreements with NATO organizations, NATO Nations and on NATO countries. She is a member of the Executive Management Board and the Contracts Award Board. Since the establishment of the NCI Agency in 2012, the legal office addresses legal issues for its main locations in Brussels and Mons, Belgium, and The Hague, Netherlands, and the sectors located in 12 countries.

The Chief Legal Adviser also provides advice to the NCI Organisation's Agency Supervisory Board and its Chairperson, as needed.

Ms Rocchi has over 20 years of extensive legal experience at progressively senior levels up to her current position as Director. She joined NATO in 1996 and was promoted initially as Head of the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency (NC3A) Legal Office in 2003 and finally as Director of the Legal Office in the NCI Agency. During her tenure, she also served as the NATO CIS Services Agency (NCSA) Legal Adviser until 2005, and the Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence (ALTBMD) programme, NATO Allied Ground Surveillance Management Agency (NAGSMA) and the NATO ACCS (air command and control system) Management Agency (NACMA) Legal Adviser until June 30, 2012.

Specialized in international law, her areas of competence cover the main activities of the Agency, i.e. contract law, public international law, legal issues related to cyber defence, export control issues, use of software, etc.

Before NATO, Ms Rocchi worked in the Legal Office of the United Nations (UN) Secretariat in New York, United States of America, where she acquired experience in administrative public law and was part of the legal team that drafted the UN Code of Conduct for International Civil Servants and the Guidelines for Peacekeeping Operations. While working at the UN, she travelled extensively for business reasons, especially in Asian countries as Technical Adviser for legal projects. In particular, she was the focal point for China on foreign direct investments sponsored by the UN.

Before moving to New York, Ms Rocchi practiced law in Rome, Italy first in a law firm and then joined the legal office of a leading telecommunications company.

Ms Rocchi received a LLM from the University of Rome with a thesis in international law. She was one of the founding members of the Foreign Lawyers Group in New York and attended the 2008 Senior Managers Government Programs at Harvard University.

Ms Rocchi is married and has two children.

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