



PRESS RELEASE

Endangered lawyers

19/02/2019

The European Parliament is holding a hearing on attacks against lawyers: an increasingly persecuted profession worldwide.

Every day, lawyers are harassed, threatened, prosecuted, imprisoned or even murdered, simply for carrying out their professional activities. In recent years, these attacks have intensified around the world, including in Europe.

A hearing specifically dedicated to attacks against the legal profession was held today by the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) in Brussels.

The hearing highlighted the different types of persecution perpetrated against lawyers, drawing on examples from countries where lawyers are victims of human rights violations.

This worrying trend has recently led the Council of Europe to work on a proposal for a European Convention on the profession of lawyer.¹

Further reflection is needed on possible new initiatives at European level and multilaterally in order to improve the situation.

In this increasingly worrying context, the CCBE stressed the need for strong initiatives from the European Union to support lawyers who work every day to protect human rights. Because, through each attack targeting a lawyer, it is the fundamental rights of all people that are impacted.

During the hearing, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, MEP Pier Antonio Panzeri, said: *"Any attack on lawyers or on the legal profession is an attack on justice and on the basic principles of the Rule of Law."*

To mark this event, the CCBE published a brochure on threats to the legal profession, which is available via the following link: <http://ccbe.link/endangeredlawyers>

A video summarising the hearing will also be posted next week on the CCBE's twitter account: @CCBEinfo

The recording of the event is available [here](#) on the Parliament's website.

About the CCBE

Recognised as the voice of the European legal profession, the CCBE represents, through the Bars and Law Societies of 45 countries, more than 1 million European lawyers.

For more information about what the CCBE does to support threatened lawyers, please consult the [Defence of the defenders](#) section of our website.

For further information, please contact:

Karine Métayer
Senior Legal Advisor
+32 (0)2 234 65 10
metayer@ccbe.eu

¹ [Recommendation](#) adopted to this effect by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 24 January 2018.