



CCBE calls for the respect of legal professional privilege and the fundamental right of Julian Assange to a fair trial

In its second [open letter](#), dated 31 July 2023, the CCBE expresses its deep concern regarding the surveillance of conversations between Mr Assange and his lawyers and the possibility of a fair trial. The letter reaffirms the concerns originally raised in its [initial letter](#) of 24 February 2020.

The CCBE has continued to closely follow the situation and is aware that material obtained from the illegal surveillance of Mr Assange (which includes conversations between him and his lawyers) has been transmitted to actors associated with the intelligence community in the US. Such surveillance is a violation of the legal professional privilege and undermines Mr Assange’s fundamental right to a fair trial.

The CCBE wishes to recall that the legal professional privilege is inviolable and is an essential element of a right to a fair trial. Its importance is recognised in the European

Convention on Human Rights, the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.

Through its letter, the CCBE urges the UK Home Secretary to take this into consideration before she takes a decision on the US extradition request for Mr Assange.

About the CCBE

ccbe.eu

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) represents the Bars and Law Societies of 46 countries, and through them, more than 1 million European lawyers. The CCBE is recognised as the voice of European lawyers, representing European Bars and Law Societies in their common interests before European and other international institutions. Defending human rights and the rule of law are central core values of the CCBE.