

# *Legal Aid: a Fundamental Right for Citizens*

## *Effective Access to Justice in the European Union*

A joint Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)  
and Academy of European Law (ERA) conference  
on the occasion of the CCBE's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
in the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union

# PROGRAMME

*Brussels, 26 November 2010*

Conrad Hotel, Avenue Louise 71, Brussels  
Languages: English, French (simultaneous interpretation)

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Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe | Conseil des barreaux européens



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The obligation to provide legal aid to those lacking sufficient resources forms part of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union as a necessary tool for ensuring effective access to justice. In the framework of the Stockholm Programme, a proposal on a new legislative instrument on access to a lawyer in criminal matters is currently being considered and a report on the application in the Member States of Directive 2003/8/EC on legal aid in cross-border disputes is foreseen by the European Commission.

This joint CCBE-ERA conference aims at providing a forum for informed discussion on the future of legal aid in Europe, bringing together as keynote speakers key figures from the European institutions, to be followed by a discussion between legal practitioners, academics, EU officials and stakeholders dealing with the issue. s

# Programme

- 09:00-09:15    **INTRODUCTION**  
Welcome address by **José María DAVÓ FERNÁNDEZ**, President of the CCBE and **Wolfgang HEUSEL**, Director of ERA
- 09:15-10:30    **KEYNOTE SPEECHES**  
(chair: **José María DAVÓ FERNÁNDEZ**)  
**Viviane REDING**, Vice-President of the European Commission, Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship  
**Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR - video message**, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs  
**Toon MUSSCHOOT**, Adviser at the Cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Justice  
**Christos ROZAKIS**, Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights  
**Kevin O’HIGGINS**, Judge of the General Court, Court of Justice of the European Union
- 10:30-11:00    **Coffee break**
- 11:00-12:00    **ROUNDTABLE**  
(chair: Judge **John TOULMIN**, Chairman of the ERA Board of Trustees)  
**Georges-Albert DAL**, CCBE First Vice-President  
**Telmo BALTAZAR**, member of Viviane Reding’s cabinet, responsible for general justice issues  
**Ilias ANAGNOSTOPOULOS**, Chair of the CCBE Criminal Law Committee  
**Matthias KILIAN**, Senior Lecturer at the University of Cologne and Director of the Soldan Institute for Law Practice Management, member of the International Legal Aid Group
- 12:00-12:45    **OPEN SESSION** with the audience
- 12:45-13:00    **CONCLUSIONS** by Judge **John TOULMIN**
- 13:00 - 14:00    **Conference lunch**