

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**regarding the cooperation between
the National Bar Association of Romania
and
the Supreme Bar Council of Bulgaria**

**The National Bar Association of Romania and the Supreme Bar Council of Bulgaria,
hereinafter named signing parties,**

**taking into account the mutual interest regarding the sustainable development of
multiple cooperation between the lawyer's bodies from their countries,**

**taking into account the intention to contribute to a close partnership between
lawyers from both countries and to a better mutual knowledge,**

**taking into account the positive outcome of the discussions that took place during
the common session of the Permanent Commission of the National Bar Association
of Romania and the Supreme Bar Council of Bulgaria on the 23rd of May 2014,**

Agree to conclude the present MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, as follows :

ART. 1

The signing parties will develop the cooperation in specific legal fields, promoting changes of materials and documents and will facilitate direct contacts between bars and types of professional practice from both countries.

ART. 2

The parties have identified until now the following areas of common interest:

- Institutional structure and the access to the legal profession;
- Initial and ongoing training;
- The lawyer's position in relation to the judiciary;
- Disciplinary issues at national and cross-border level.

ART. 3

The parties have mutually decided to identify the common interesting aspects regarding European Community Law and specific cross-border judicial issues and will establish projects of cooperation in these areas.

ART. 4

The parties will facilitate cooperation by:

- a) settlement and execution of programs, studies and other forms of common activities;
- b) mutual visits and training documentations;
- c) changes of publications, scientific literature and results of joint programs;

The parties will encourage direct cooperation between bars in the above mentioned specific fields.

ART. 5

The parties will contribute to the cooperation and change of experience in the area of training and continuing professional education for lawyers as follows:

- a) changes of lecturers and other experts enabling them to teach and operate common scientific researches;
- b) development of direct cooperation between training and continuing professional education institutions;
- c) awarding, according to the possibilities of each party, of places and scholarships for the lawyers of both parties for training and continuing professional education, established by common agreement;
- d) support for studying of the legal systems of both parties by changes of lecturers, books and scientific literature and for organizing common summer courses.

ART. 6

The parties recognize certificates, diplomas and academic degrees awarded after attending and graduating the lawyer's educational institutions and initial training and continuing professional training institutions of the other party, according to the relevant European legislation.

Both parties agree to recognize professional titles obtained in Romania and the Republic of Bulgaria.

ART. 7

The parties will encourage and support mutual knowledge of lawyer's traditions and legal systems, by:

- a) organization of scientific events, seminars and symposiums;
- b) encouragement of translation and publication of scientific literature of both countries.

ART. 8

The parties will develop the active cooperation of their representatives and delegations in the Council of European Bars (CCBE) and in other international professional organizations and forums.

ART. 9

The parties will also encourage other types of cooperation between bars of both countries, by direct agreements.

ART.10

In order to implement the provisions of the present memorandum, the parties will conclude programs of cooperation for certain periods, in order to agree upon specific forms of cooperation, implementation and financing arrangements.

For this purpose, the parties will assign their representatives responsible for implementing this Memorandum, who will meet regularly in a mixed commission, alternatively in Bucharest and Sofia

ART.11

The provisions of the present Memorandum do not exclude the possibility of mutual cooperation in other areas, which will be identified and which meet the objective and purposes of this agreement

ART. 12

The signing parties decide to meet annually, at the proper level, alternatively in every country, in order to make an exchange of information and to set the specific fields and issues which will be included in the future work program.

ART.13

Both signatures parties decide that the present Memorandum of Understanding will be applied for a 4 (four) years period. Its validity will be automatically extended for new periods of 4 years, if no party notifies in writing the other party, about its intention to terminate the memorandum, with at least 6 months before the end of the 4 years period.

Signed in Bucharest on the 23rd of May 2014, in two originals, in Romanian and in Bulgarian

The President of the National Bar
Association of Romania

Dr. Florea Gheorghe

The President of the Supreme Bar Council
of Bulgaria

Ralitsa Bosilkova Negentsova