

Brussels, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009

## European lawyers publish a manifesto for ‘the right kind of justice for Europe’

In a four-point manifesto published today around the forthcoming European elections, the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) calls on EU decision-makers to ensure that there is proper co-ordination and coherence of policy in the justice sector, with particular attention to striking the right balance between fundamental rights and other political priorities, such as security.

The CCBE represents through its members, the Bars and Law Societies of Europe, over 700,000 lawyers from the European Union and European Economic Area and beyond.

In its manifesto, the CCBE calls on the EU:

- to establish a DG Justice at the European Commission;
- to guarantee the right of a client to consult a lawyer in full confidence;
- to protect the procedural rights of suspects and defendants in criminal proceedings in all Member States; and
- to strike the right balance between liberty and security in legislation against terrorism and organised crime.

CCBE President, Anne Birgitte Gammeljord, said today: “*We are concerned that current structures do not allow for proper co-ordination and coherence of policy in the justice sector, and current decisions do not always come down on the right side of the balance. We hope that our proposals will further the administration of justice and the rule of law in the EU.*”

The CCBE will use its manifesto to raise awareness among EU decision-makers of its concerns about how justice is currently addressed at European level. This will be a significant year for Europe, and the manifesto will be promoted not only during the European Parliament elections but also, beyond that, during the Swedish Presidency of the European Union and the establishment of the new Commission in the second half of 2009.

[Click here to download the CCBE Manifesto.](#)

For further information,  
please contact Antoine Fobe  
Tel: +32.(0)2.234.65.10  
Fax: +32.(0)2.234.65.11/12  
E-mail: [fobe@ccbe.eu](mailto:fobe@ccbe.eu)