

Brussels, 9 September 2010

## The CCBE celebrates its 50th anniversary

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) is holding its next Standing Committee in Basle, Switzerland, exactly 50 years after its creation in the city. "We will of course celebrate this jubilee in Basle with our members and the people who contributed to our history", the President of the CCBE José-María Davó-Fernández said, "but we will also be preparing for the future."

Indeed, the celebrations will start on 10 September with a colloquium on "The Cyber-Future of Lawyers", with two key-note speakers: Carolyn B. Lamm, immediate Past President of the American Bar Association (ABA), will present the issues under consideration by the ABA's Ethics 20/20 Commission regarding the impact of evolving technology on professional ethics and regulation; Patrick Van Eecke, the Chair of the CCBE's IT Law Committee, will give a practitioner's point of view on the impact of IT developments on the legal profession.

The CCBE has published an anniversary book to recount the milestones of its history, marked by some important achievements. The book itself does not only look at the past. 22 CCBE past presidents contribute with their reflections on the future of the CCBE. The Presidents of the Court of Justice and General Court of Justice of the European Union give their perspective on the role of lawyers in the administration of justice, a role nowadays often lost to view by decision-makers. And two prominent former judges and a specialist researcher provide a critical analysis of the way the European legislator regulates the provision of services, and particularly by lawyers.

"For fifty years the CCBE has been the voice of the legal profession in a united Europe, not only to serve the interests of European lawyers, but also to uphold the rule of law and high standards in justice on behalf of European citizens", José-María Davó-Fernández said. "The acceleration of European cooperation in the area of justice under the impulse of the Lisbon Treaty and the development of e-justice make the CCBE role as crucial as ever", he added.

### Background information:

The CCBE is the representative organization of around 1 million European lawyers through its member bars and law societies from 31 full member countries, and 11 further associate and observer countries. The history of the CCBE tells that it all started in a Swiss boat headed for Basle on 10 September 1960 on the occasion of a congress of the *Union internationale des avocats* (UIA). A CCBE history is available on the following page of our website: <http://www.ccbe.eu/index.php?id=15&L=0>

Carolyn B. Lamm is an international arbitration, litigation, and trade lawyer from Washington, D.C. A partner with White and Case, she is past president of the District of Columbia Bar and a council member of the American Law Institute. As ABA President, she created the ABA Ethics 20/20 Commission, which is considering possible changes to lawyer ethics rules in light of globalization of the profession and changes in technology use by lawyers. Patrick Van Eecke is a partner in the Technology department of DLA Piper in Brussels and holds the global co-chair of their E-business practice group. He is also a professor at the University of Antwerp, where he teaches European Information and Communications Law.

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