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PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 20 April 2007

CCBE response to the Green Paper on the review of the consumer acquis

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) has today submitted to the European Commission its response to the Green Paper on the review of the consumer acquis.

The CCBE represents over 700,000 lawyers from a variety of European legal traditions within the European Union and European Economic Area through their member bars and law societies. The majority of its members believe that the best approach to the review of consumer legislation is a mixed one. An important part of such an approach foresees the adoption of a framework instrument addressing horizontal issues of relevance for all consumer contracts, whether domestic or cross-border. To complement the framework instrument, the existing sectoral directives should be further revised where necessary. Such a horizontal instrument would help to clarify legal terminology, and coordinate provisions between the different instruments existing in the consumer acquis. In this way, the consumer acquis would be simplified and also made more coherent. Consumers would have more confidence in transactions with businesses located abroad. Enterprises would profit through a decrease in their compliance costs and through easier trade across the EU, irrespective of where they are established.

The majority of the CCBE's members also believe that the revised legislation should be based on full harmonisation, subject to the important caveat that maximum harmonisation measures should not reduce the protection available to the consumer beyond an acceptable level.

The CCBE President, Colin Tyre QC, said today: "We support the creation of a legal instrument in the field of European contract law which brings legal certainty and helps to underpin the European Market. The CCBE is willing to cooperate with the European institutions in this important political undertaking by contributing its practical and academic legal expertise as the work progresses."

[A copy of the CCBE response to the Green paper on the review of the consumer acquis is attached to this press release](#)

For further information,
please contact Birgit Beger
Tel: +32.(0)2.234.65.10
Fax: +32.(0)2.234.65.11/12
E-mail: beger@ccbe.org