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PRESS RELEASE

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CCBE adopts Resolution on European Contract Law

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), representing over 700,000 lawyers through their member bars and law societies, has adopted a resolution on current developments in European Contract Law at its 105th plenary session in Brussels on 25 November 2006.

The resolution followed a long period of reflection within the CCBE, including a questionnaire addressed to all its delegations, and culminating in a CCBE conference held in Rome on 10-11 November 2006, entitled "Towards a CCBE view on European Contract Law", where representatives of the European Parliament, academia and CCBE experts discussed current moves towards developing Europe-wide initiatives on contract law.

The CCBE acknowledges that the Common Frame of Reference currently being discussed, assuming that it is broad in its coverage, could, as a legal lingua franca for Europe, provide for an agreed set of terms and concepts in contract law, not just for drafting EU legislation but also for lawyers dealing with each other. An intensive dialogue of European lawyers with political circles and academics at European level is vital in what is the most important initiative under way in the field of civil law.

The CCBE resolution states:

"That the CCBE is in full support of the initiative to create a Common Frame of Reference (CFR) in order to improve the quality and coherence of the existing *acquis* and future legal instruments in the area of contract law;
That the CCBE is willing to cooperate in this respect with both the European Commission and the European Parliament by contributing its practical and academic legal expertise to this important political undertaking".

The CCBE president, Manuel Cavaleiro Brandão, said today: "A uniform internal market cannot be fully functional without further steps towards the harmonisation of civil law. European Lawyers should not forget the duty they owe not only to their clients, but also to European citizens and society as a whole, which includes ensuring the quality and coherence of any future legal instruments underpinning the single market."

[The full text of the CCBE resolution is attached to this press release.](#)

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