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# PRESS RELEASE

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## CCBE issues guidelines for electronic ID cards for European lawyers

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), representing over 700,000 lawyers from the European Union and European Economic Area through their member bars and law societies, has today published guidelines for a Europe-wide system of electronic identity (ID) cards for lawyers.

Since 1978, the CCBE has produced the CCBE ID card, which facilitates access to courts and institutions for lawyers active outside their home jurisdiction. The card is delivered to the national bar or other relevant authority, according to the conditions fixed in each Member State, which then issues it to lawyers registered with it.

The CCBE ID card has the option of an electronic chip. The Europe-wide system is envisaged as a voluntary scheme, at this stage consisting of minimum technical standards which allow for cross-border interoperability. Participation in the system, national structure, certification policy and finances are up to the CCBE member bars to decide according to their national situation. Since the national bars remain the only bodies competent to accredit the professional status of lawyers, they are the only bodies competent to create a national scheme of electronic ID cards.

Nevertheless, if CCBE member bars decide to embark on a system of electronic ID cards for their lawyers, the scheme provides them with minimum technical standards interoperable throughout Europe. This would allow, for instance, a French lawyer with a French certificate to have the guarantee that his/her policy complies with the CCBE standards and therefore would be trusted in another Member State that has adopted the framework.

CCBE President, Colin Tyre QC, underlined the importance of the policy for the European legal profession: "I am very pleased that with this new and pro-active policy, the CCBE will enable its members to benefit from a faster and more secure exchange of information between all the parties involved, with new means to overcome geographical distances. Cross-border recognition is a key factor in the development of European law and procedure, and this added feature of our existing system for ID cards for lawyers will make a major contribution in this field."

[A copy of the guidelines for a Europe-wide system of electronic ID cards for lawyers is attached to this press release + Annex: Technical standards for interoperability of electronic ID cards](#)

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