

# Statement of the President

The CCBE was born 60 years ago, in September 1960. Initially created as a committee: “the Consultative Committee of Bars and national associations of the six States of the EEC”, the CCBE was nursed at the heart of the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA) during its first years of existence.

The first step towards independence from its mother organisation was the appointment of a President and the adoption of a “règlement organique” in 1966. Its name changed since then but the acronym “CCBE” remained.

Originally representing the Bars and national associations of the six EEC Member States, the CCBE represents today the Bars and Law Societies of 45 European countries representing more than one million European lawyers.

The CCBE can be proud of its achievements. To name a few them: the CCBE Code of Conduct, the CCBE Charter of Core Principles of the European Legal Profession, the participation in the work that lead to Directive 98/5/EC on the Freedom of establishment of lawyers, the CCBE Identity Card, the CCBE interventions in major court cases at European level, the publication of practical guides for lawyers acting before the EU courts and the European Court of Human Rights, the CCBE Human Rights Award, the creation of

a European Lawyers’ Day, the launch of the initiative European Lawyers in Lesvos (jointly with the German Bar) and of course, the regular publication of position papers, recommendations, guidance, statements on issues that are of importance to justice and the legal profession.

Through the years, the CCBE has become the recognised voice of the European legal profession and has developed close cooperation with the EU institutions and EU agencies (such as the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights), the EU courts, the European Court of Human Rights, the Council of Europe as well as with other international and European lawyers’ organisations.

Today, many challenges are ahead such as the continuity of Justice in times of pandemic, threats to the Rule of Law, human rights violations, attacks on lawyers worldwide, the impact of technological developments, the digitisation of justice, the impact of globalisation and market liberalisation, etc.

Lawyers play a crucial role for access to justice and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of the defence and the guarantees of a fair trial. The legal profession is a cornerstone of the Rule of Law.

More than ever, the CCBE will continue to have the voice of European lawyers heard in these challenging times.

Long live the CCBE!

#CCBE60



EUROPEAN LAWYERS

CCBE

AVOCATS EUROPÉENS

BARREAUX EUROPÉENS



YEARS | ANS  
1960 - 2020

#CCBE60