

2011

Georges-Albert Dal Belgique

17

 years of CCBE!

I joined the Belgian delegation in 1995, when I was President of the French-speaking order of the Brussels Bar.

Heinz Weil was the CCBE President, but my involvement at the time was fleeting because I was a practising President of the Bar while being active in the European Bars Federation, of which I was to become president at the end of my term of office. At the end of this presidency, I was able to become more actively involved in our work through becoming Information Officer, then Head of the Belgian delegation.

Over the years, I became more active and chaired various committees, which gave me the opportunity to study in depth the ethical principles of the profession from an international perspective. It was comparative ethics live. Fascinating!

All these contacts have created a network of strong friendships. These friendships led to my election as CCBE Second Vice-President in 2009. I had the privilege to work under the presidency of Anne-Birgit Gammeljord, then under the presidency of José-María Davó-Fernández and finally, after my presidency in 2011, alongside my friend Marcella Prunbauer. During these four years, I had the immense privilege of living at the heart of the European Bar, a group of more than one million colleagues who have the essential in common.

During these four years, I had the immense privilege of living at the heart of the European Bar, a group of more than one million colleagues who have the essential in common.

Memories? There are too many. I'll remember two of them. The Three Bars Meeting bringing together Japanese, Chinese and European bars in Tianjin where Marcella Prunbauer, Jonathan Goldsmith and I experienced the inside of China and found ourselves lost in a unilingual crowd, amidst incomprehensible inscriptions, without a Latin character or a word in English.

But above all, that day in Vienna when, on the occasion of the Präsidentenkonferenz, a small group helped me for several hours to draw up the French and English texts of the ten core principles of the profession which, together with the Code of Conduct, are one of the cornerstones of the CCBE.