

2012

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My Presidency in 2012, soon after the CCBE had celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the place of its “birth” in Basle, could be summarised as a continued year of harsh winds of change blowing at the profession and the autonomy of Bars and Law Societies, which was particularly driven by the consequences of the financial crisis, the “troika-siege” experience in some member bars and continued efforts to “liberalise” the regulatory framework under commercial competition viewpoints, on one hand, combined with quite some positive moves of the CCBE towards something new.

The new moves included a first time ever Plenary Session in the premises of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasburg which underlined the very important work of the CCBE in the area of fundamental rights, a profound economic study to counter the recurring arguments for the need of further liberalisation (the Yarrow Report) and the move in the true sense of the word to the new premises which are still the current seat of the organisation.

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I am glad to see that the first introduction of an annual report in 2012 as means of information for our constituents about the multiple tasks and activities of the CCBE during each year has prospered well and became a good tradition. These annual reports could also serve as treasure chest once it should be decided to update the former booklet of the History of the CCBE which was once dedicated to the CCBE by one of my predecessors – maybe at the occasion of a next anniversary.

Years of upheaval have not ended yet and winds of change are blowing steadily. The CCBE has now 60 years of good experience to face and cope duly with new challenges and will certainly continue to do so. Happy Anniversary and *ad multos annos!*