

2017

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I was fortunate in 2017 to follow as President, Michel Benichou who was an inspirational president and whose passion for fundamental rights had amongst other things aided the launch, with the DAV, of the European Lawyers in Lesvos (ELIL) organisation.

In 2017 a delegation and I visited Athens to establish a new agreement with the Greek government and legal profession and then visit the island of Lesvos to observe at first-hand how the assistance to asylum seekers was being delivered, to meet the local Bar, who acted for claimants after their ELIL initial advice, and to observe the conditions in which they were temporarily accommodated and 'processed'. This initiative, with which I am still involved as the Board member representing the CCBE, continues some three years later and goes from strength to strength.

2017 also saw the considerable strengthening of links with the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) who joined the high level bar meeting with the UIA, IBA, ABA and the CCBE for the first time and with my high level of engagement with AIJA and its office bearers especially at their conference that year in Japan. This expanded our contact with a representative international body of the future of the legal profession which was, in 2017, coupled with the publication of an eBook on 'Innovation and Future of the Legal profession in Europe'.

Throughout 2017 the Council continued to work towards the fundamental core principles of the CCBE but on looking back at the many successes of the Council over many years I think the ELIL project was, to me, a very memorable event as it involved the active work of the Council itself, with others, in providing,, directly a very practical solution to a problem which dealt, quite manifestly, with the core principles, aims and objectives of the CCBE.

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