

# 2019

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Portugal

I count the 60 candles of the birthday cake of the CCBE and try to dedicate each one to an achievement, an event or a name from the many with whom the history of the 60 years of existence of the CCBE is written. An exercise that appeared to be easy, but which has proved to be of the greatest difficulty due to so many achievements, events and names to commemorate on this date that the candles, many at first sight, run out in the blow of the first memories.

An avalanche of candidates for the first candles came to my mind, beginning by the great achievements in the creation and development of a European legal profession, free in movement and establishment, the consolidation and codification of the core values of the legal profession, the affirmation of the independence and dignity of lawyers, the resistance to the liberalisation of legal services, the demand for an ethic order for the digital legal world framed by integrity and impartiality and respect for the non-disclosure obligations, the vigilant defence of the rule of law and human rights, interventions in support of the independence of the judiciary, the aid to refugees and many events, many names that glitter along the lines of the history of the CCBE.

So many achievements, for so few candles!

A wind of bad memories of the degradation of the rule of law as result of authoritarian and populist political regimes which are disrespectful of the core values of the legal profession and of the human rights and control the administration of justice and threaten, persecute, imprison and kill the independent and complaining voice of lawyers, passed and caused the flames of the candles to sway and tilt, close of being blown out.

However, the core values of the legal profession rushed to protect the candles and the flames resumed their radiance.

I then realised that it would be better to dedicate the 60 candles to this rescue force in permanent alert, which has as its greatest interpreters lawyers who suffer the hardships of not bending in defence of the rule of law and who defend human rights firmly and at a high personal cost.

I have therefore decided to devote a candle to each of the lawyers murdered only and because of having acted as a lawyer.

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Tragically, few, very few candles remain...