



Paris, June 29, 2016

### **Message addressed to the drafting committee of the ICCBA's Statutes**

Dear Colleagues,

We hereby note that the majority of the objections raised in the statutory commentaries that we sent to you on June 24, 2016<sup>1</sup> were not met with satisfactory responses.

The message addressed to us by some members of the drafting committee on June 24 does not respond to the text's inherent contradictions and serious inconsistencies. In addition, we became aware of additional problems upon further reading of the Statutes and the interviews granted by certain committee members to several of the undersigned organisations, reinforcing our doubts and concerns. We also note that we were systematically told during these individual interviews that the positions expressed were strictly personal and did not represent the views of the drafting committee. This confirms a lack of commitment to clear and transparent dialogue between the committee as a whole and legal organisations.

In addition to the criticisms already raised through the noted commentaries, we issue the strongest reservations regarding the use of the terms "association of the bar." The notion of a bar implies, by definition, a prior recognition and competencies that the given association does not have.

We also insist on the particularly unacceptable nature of Article 17 of the Statutes, which institutes an undetermined pleading tax and whose legality remains to be established.

Finally, we note that the debates scheduled for June 30, 2016 to discuss statutory amendments are solely reserved to members of the list of counsel and of the ICCBA. This requirement once again reflects a will to avoid any discussion, since any person who wishes to submit amendments would have to register with this association, whose legitimacy is contested.

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<sup>1</sup> French version was sent on June 17, 2016.

We find in this requirement additional motivation to maintain our firm opposition to the proposed text and the process surrounding the adoption of these Statutes as well as the coming elections.

Yours faithfully,



**Dominique Attias**  
Vice Chair of the Paris Bar Association



**Jean-Jacques Uettwiller**  
Chairman of the International Association of Lawyers (UIA)



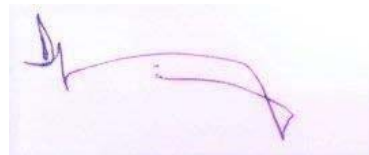
Yves Oschinsky  
Président de la Fédération des Barreaux d'Europe



**Patrick Henry**  
Chairman of AVOCATS.BE



**Michel Bénichou**  
Chairman of the European Bars Federation (CCBE)



**Samna Soumana Daouda**  
Chairman of the Conference of the Bar Associations of the Member States of the Organization for the Harmonization in Africa of Business Law (OHADA)