
CCBE Resolution on Pension Plans supporting the French Bars

The Council of European Bars and Law Societies met in a Standing Committee on 20 February in Vienna:

RECALLS the fundamental nature of the principle of the independence of lawyers, including its economic and social aspects;

RECALLS the attachment of European lawyers to maintain their existing protection/pension schemes as an expression of their independence and the liberal nature of their profession;

RECALLS point e) of Recommendation No.R(2000) 21 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the freedom of exercise of the profession of lawyer, which states: "*Bars associations or other professional lawyers' associations should be encouraged to ensure the independence of lawyers and, inter alia, to promote the welfare of members of the profession and assist them or their families if circumstances so require*";

NOTES that in Member States where lawyers benefit from an autonomous pension management scheme, pensions are efficient and balanced;

EXPRESSES its solidarity with the protest movements of French lawyers and Bars whose autonomous pension schemes are being called into question;

CONDEMNS the attacks on the Lawyers' independent pension schemes;

CONDEMNS the consequences of these reforms on access to law and justice for the most vulnerable citizens.