

The Council of Europe Convention on  
the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer



GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE

# Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer

## What is this about?



This year's European Lawyers' Day focuses on the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer, an important new step to ensure that lawyers can work freely and independently to defend people's rights. This Convention, once adopted, will encourage as many countries as possible, both in Europe and beyond, to commit to its principles by signing and ratifying it (meaning agreeing to be bound by it).

## Why does this matter to you?

Lawyers play a vital role in society. They help people defend their rights, access justice, and uphold fairness. However, many lawyers around the world face threats, harassment, and interference simply for doing their job. Without lawyers working independently and safely, everyone's access to justice is at risk. This Convention aims to protect lawyers so they can continue their essential work, which benefits society as a whole.



**How does the Convention protect lawyers and the public?** The Convention establishes clear rules to ensure lawyers can do their work without fear or restrictions. Here are some examples of what it means for you:

**Private and confidential legal advice:**

Lawyers will be able to meet with their clients in private and communicate confidentially by any means, without the risk of surveillance or exposure. It will ensure that everything you say to your lawyer remains confidential. This ensures that everyone can seek legal advice securely without fear of reprisal by both State and non-State actors.

**Safety for lawyers:**

The Convention protects lawyers from harassment, threats, or attacks linked to their professional duties. It also guarantees that lawyers have legal support if their own rights are violated.

**Fair representation:**

Lawyers will have the right to represent clients effectively in all proceedings, including challenging impartiality where necessary. This guarantees fair and just legal processes for everyone.

**Independent profession:**

The Convention ensures that lawyers can join and work within independent professional associations, free from government interference. These associations are key to upholding professional standards and protecting the public’s trust in justice. It will also ensure the quality of representation and advice provided by lawyer to everyone.

**Equal access to the profession:**

Admission to the legal profession must be fair and based on transparent criteria. This ensures that qualified individuals can become lawyers, and decisions about their careers are made fairly and can be appealed.



## How does the Convention work?



To make sure its rules are followed, the Convention introduces a **monitoring system**:

### Regular reviews:

Experts will periodically check how countries are implementing the Convention. They will gather information from governments, legal associations, and others to ensure that standards are upheld.

### Urgent actions:

If serious violations occur, experts can request immediate information and take steps to address the situation, ensuring quick action to protect lawyers and the rule of law.

## A global impact

Although designed for Europe, the Convention is **open to countries worldwide**. By setting a strong example, it can also inspire similar efforts in other regions, helping to protect lawyers and strengthen justice systems globally.



## What does this mean for you?

This Convention is not just about lawyers—it's about everyone's right to fair and independent legal representation. By protecting lawyers, it safeguards your ability to defend your rights, access justice, and trust in the legal system. It ensures that lawyers can work without fear, allowing them to focus on protecting you and the rule of law.



## Conclusion

**The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer is a vital tool to defend democracy, justice, and human rights.** When lawyers are safe and independent, society as a whole benefits. This Convention is a commitment to ensuring access to justice for all and preserving the rule of law for future generations.



*If you want to find out more about the Convention, please consult our explanatory note via the following [link](#).*