Entrance to the Netherlands Bar
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Dr. R.C.H. van Otterlo
Chief Operations Officer
The Netherlands Bar Association
The Netherlands Bar Association

- 1 national Netherlands Bar Association
- 19 local Bar Associations
- More than 14,500 lawyers
- Membership of the bar is obligatory: Public law body
- Act on Advocates
- Several By-laws
List of demands for entrance to the Dutch Bar:

- Secondary school (high school + junior college): 6 years (in the Netherlands)
- University: studies in law
  - LL.B: 3 years
  - LL.M: 1 year
  - ‘Civiel effect’: some subjects are obligatory (next sheet)
- Plans for the future: possibility to enter the Bar for law students from ‘professional universities’ (polytechnics = ‘Hochschule’): 4 years of professional law studies (Bachelor), plus one intermediate year (academic level), plus legal Master at a university
Obligatory subjects during the law study

• Private law, including procedural law
• Criminal law, including procedural law
• One of the following three subjects:
  1°. constitutional law;
  2°. administrative law, including procedural
  3°. tax law.
Procedure to become Dutch *produit fini*

- Employment as a lawyer at a registered law firm Confirmation by oath by the court
- Followed by 3 years of traineeship: working as a lawyer under supervision of an experienced lawyer
- Several exames and courses
- Finally after 3 years: approval and confirmation of the local Bar Association is necessary
List of demands for entrance to the Dutch Bar:

EU situation for *produit fini*

1. One time appearance: possibility to act once only for a client as a lawyer within the Netherlands (Services Directive)

2. *Produit fini* from any other EU country can, after successfully having passed several exams (so called: ‘ability test’ = aptitude test), enter the Netherlands Bar (next sheet)

3. *Produit fini* from any other EU country can start a practise in the Netherlands under hometitle and can after 3 years request entrance to the Dutch Bar
Aptitude test

- The aptitude test relates in whole or in part to the following legal fields:
  - Civil Law (including procedural law)
  - Criminal Law (including procedural law)
  - Administrative Law (including procedural law)
  - Divorce Law
  - Employment Law
  - Bankruptcy Law
  - Corporate Law
  - Tax Law
  - Lawyer ethics
Morgenbesser-case: non produit fini

- EU-subject
- Non-Dutch academic law study
- General rule: not possible to enter the Dutch Bar according to the Act on Advocates
- Morgenbesser-case: entrance is possible after successfully having taken several Dutch exams
- Followed by 3 years of traineeship in the Netherlands Bar and the accompanying demands (exames and courses)