Legal Aid: a Fundamental Right for Citizens
Effective Access to Justice in the European Union

A joint Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) and Academy of European Law (ERA) conference on the occasion of the CCBE’s 50th anniversary in the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union

PROGRAMME
Brussels, 26 November 2010

Conrad Hotel, Avenue Louise 71, Brussels
Languages: English, French (simultaneous interpretation)
The obligation to provide legal aid to those lacking sufficient resources forms part of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union as a necessary tool for ensuring effective access to justice. In the framework of the Stockholm Programme, a proposal on a new legislative instrument on access to a lawyer in criminal matters is currently being considered and a report on the application in the Member States of Directive 2003/8/EC on legal aid in cross-border disputes is foreseen by the European Commission.

This joint CCBE-ERA conference aims at providing a forum for informed discussion on the future of legal aid in Europe, bringing together as keynote speakers key figures from the European institutions, to be followed by a discussion between legal practitioners, academics, EU officials and stakeholders dealing with the issue.

Programme

09:00-09:15  INTRODUCTION
Welcome address by José María DAVÓ FERNÁNDEZ, President of the CCBE and Wolfgang HEUSEL, Director of ERA

09:15-10:30  KEYNOTE SPEECHES
(chair: José María DAVÓ FERNÁNDEZ)
Viviane REDING, Vice-President of the European Commission, Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship
Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR - video message, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
Toon MUSSCHOOT, Adviser at the Cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Justice
Christos ROZAKIS, Vice-President of the European Court of Human Rights
Kevin O’HIGGINS, Judge of the General Court, Court of Justice of the European Union

10:30-11:00  Coffee break

11:00-12:00  ROUNDTABLE
(chair: Judge John TOULMIN, Chairman of the ERA Board of Trustees)
Georges-Albert DAL, CCBE First Vice-President
Telmo BALTAZAR, member of Viviane Reding’s cabinet, responsible for general justice issues
Ilias ANAGNOSTOPOULOS, Chair of the CCBE Criminal Law Committee
Matthias KILIAN, Senior Lecturer at the University of Cologne and Director of the Soldan Institute for Law Practice Management, member of the International Legal Aid Group

12:00-12:45  OPEN SESSION with the audience

12:45-13:00  CONCLUSIONS by Judge John TOULMIN

13:00 - 14:00  Conference lunch