

CCBE Plenary event “Maintaining justice in a changing Europe”

Date: **22 November 2024**

Location: **European Parliament**

Building: Paul-Henri SPAAK | Room: P4B001

Moderated by CCBE Secretary-General, Simone Cuomo



Participate in person by registering on our extranet

Participate online: **livestreaming**

7.30 – 8.15 | Accreditation center | *SPINELLI building, rue Wiertz 60, 1050 Brussels*

8.30 – 9.00 | Welcome coffee | *Hemicycle Bar*

9.00 – 9.15 | Opening remarks



Javier Zarzalejos,
Chair of the European Parliament
LIBE Committee



Pierre-Dominique Schupp,
President of the CCBE

9.15 – 9.30 | Keynote speech



Věra Jourová,
Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency
Responsible for Democracy, rule of law, media pluralism and fight against disinformation

9.30 – 10.45 | Roundtable 1

“Justice as critical infrastructure: securing long-term investment in courts and legal systems”

Roundtable description: Justice systems are essential for maintaining democracy, safeguarding the rule of law, and protecting individual rights. This roundtable will discuss whether governments should recognise justice systems as critical infrastructure, deserving of consistent and long-term investment. There will be a focus on the broader consequences of underinvestment in justice, exploring how underfunded systems can undermine democratic values, the effective enforcement of rights, and become susceptible to political influence.

Speakers



Clare Ovey,
Director of Human Rights
Directorate General Human
Rights and Rule of Law,
Council of Europe



Ana Gallego Torres,
Director-General for
Justice, European
Commission



Róbert Répássy,
State Secretary for
Parliamentary Affairs
and Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Justice, Hungarian Presidency
of the Council of the European Union

10.45 – 11.15 | Coffee break

11.15 – 12.30 | Roundtable 2

“A shared responsibility to defend democracy: the role of European institutions and legal professionals in countering democratic backsliding and upholding fundamental rights”

Roundtable description: Democratic backsliding and populist movements threaten the core principles of justice in Europe. In addition, European institutions are tackling challenges such as unlawful surveillance, restrictions on free speech, the rise of disinformation, rule of law deterioration and violations of privacy rights. With varied national interests and legal traditions, how can the European institutions and other actors ensure that justice systems can uphold democratic standards, rule of law and fundamental rights, as well as ensuring judicial collaboration and mutual trust between Member States?

Speakers



Marc van der Woude,
President of the General
Court of the European
Union



Sirpa Rautio,
Director of the
EU Agency for
Fundamental Rights



Ioannis Ktistakis,
Judge of the European
Court of Human Rights,
President of Section III

12.30 – 13.00 | Closing remarks



Maria Ejchart,
Under-Secretary of State
Ministry of Justice,
Republic of Poland



Pierre-Dominique Schupp,
President of the CCBE

13.00 – 14.15 | Lunch break

14.15 – 15.30 | CCBE presentations and key findings

- **Key take-aways from the morning roundtables:**
 - Exchange of views on how the legal profession can provide solutions to emerging challenges
 - Presentation from the CCBE President for 2025
- **Presentation of the CCBE Survey on innovation of the legal profession and legal services**
- **Presentation of the CCBE report: Survey on threatening behaviour and aggression towards lawyers**
- **Presentation on the latest developments regarding the draft Convention on the protection of the profession of lawyers by the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)**

15.30 – 15.45 | Closing of the plenary event

Pierre-Dominique Schupp,
President of the CCBE