

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which represents the bars and law societies of 45 countries, and through them more than 1 million European lawyers, follows closely and with great concern the situation of lawyers in Turkey.

Today, all our attention is turned towards lawyers Ebru Timtik and Aytaç Ünsal, who are currently serving prison sentences in relation to their activities as lawyers. In no country should lawyers be punished for carrying out their professional activities as lawyers.

Lawyers play a crucial role as actors of the system of justice and through their contribution to protecting the rule of law, ensuring access to justice for fellow citizens, and protecting fundamental rights and freedoms.

Lawyers must at all costs be protected from any reprisal, hindrance, intimidation or judicial harassment.

In my capacity as CCBE President, I urge once again the Turkish authorities to do everything in their power to guarantee lawyers Ebru Timtik and Aytaç Ünsal a fair trial, ensure their good health and eventually restore their freedom.

Ranko Pelicarić  
CCBE President