The Plenary Session took place on 29-30 May in the historic BHP Hall of the Gdańsk shipyard, where the “Gdańsk Agreement” was signed on 31 August 1980, leading to the establishment of Independent Self-Governing Trade Union “Solidarność” and starting Poland on the road towards freedom.

The opening address was given by human rights activist and former President of the Polish Republic Lech Wałęsa, who invited lawyers to be more active in the defence of the rule of law. A video message from Donald Tusk, President of the European Council and native of Gdańsk, was also presented.

Following the session CCBE delegates then laid a wreath before the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers of 1970.

Read more: [Plenary Session of the CCBE in Gdańsk]
Lech Wałęsa and CCBE President Maria Ślązak presided on 29 May to the signing of two twinning agreements between the Georgian Bar Association and the National Council of Legal Advisors in Poland, and between the Czech Bar Association and the Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia. These agreements are expected to speed up the integration of Central and Eastern European countries in the CCBE, reinforcing cooperation between national bars on issues of common interest.

‘I think that Western bars should promote rule of law and core values in Eastern Europe’ says Jędrzej Klatka, Head of the Polish Delegation to the CCBE. ‘I hope that my co-operation with the Georgian Bar will help it participate more actively in the work of the CCBE, for the benefit for all Georgian lawyers.’
LAUNCH OF THE FIND-A-LAWYER 3 PROJECT

The CCBE and the European Lawyers’ Foundation jointly announced on 29 May the launch of the Find-A-Lawyer 3 project. Co-funded by the European Commission, Find-A-Lawyer 3 is a follow-up to two successful initiatives, aimed at improving services delivered in FAL 1 and FAL 2 and studying the feasibility of new services.

Read more: [Find-A-Lawyer on the e-Justice Portal]

JOINT CONFERENCE IN KIEV ON REPRESENTATION BY ADVOCATES IN COURT PROCEEDINGS

On 5-6 June 2015, the IBA, UNBA, CCBE and European Lawyers’ Foundation held a successful joint conference on "Handyman or Professional?" Representation by advocates in courts’ in Kiev which brought together European expert speakers with representatives of the Ukrainian authorities, the President of the Ukrainian National Bar Association (UNBA) and other representatives of the Bar, advocates as well as representatives of European and international organisations, including the Council of Europe and the EU Programme in support of Justice Reforms.

Maria Ślązak, CCBE President, at the joint conference in Kiev
The CCBE First Vice-President, Michel Benichou, and the chairman of the PECO committee, Ranko Pelicarić, as well as representatives from European Bars and PECO committee members participated in the Kosova Bar Association Annual Lawyers' Day 2015 on 10 June. They also met with the President of the Republic of Kosovo and judges of the Supreme Court.

The CCBE received on this occasion the Justinian Award in recognition for its continuous support to the Kosova Bar. As part of the Annual Lawyers’ Day, the Bar also held a roundtable to discuss ‘Problems of Advocacy in relation to the Notary and Civil Procedure Law’. The chairman of the CCBE PECO committee, who participated as speaker in the roundtable, offered the CCBE assistance and expertise on both issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

26/06: CCBE Standing Committee, Brussels
2-3/07: CEPEJ Plenary Meeting, Strasbourg
13/07: ABA-CCBE-IBA-UUI Meeting, Paris
30/07-4/08: American Bar Association Annual Meeting, Chicago