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128th CCBE Plenary Session in Brussels

128TH CCBE PLENARY SESSION IN BRUSSELS

On 24 November, the 128th Plenary Session was organised in Brussels. In the opening, AIJA immediate Past President, David Frølich addressed the CCBE Members, highlighting our organisations' role in encouraging lawyers to connect with their communities, fostering dialogue and bridging cultural and professional gaps. He also called for our organisations to put pride back into the profession and remember our role in the safeguard of the Rule of Law, which we must ensure remains engrained in our work through a constant exchange with our colleagues in the international community.

Anuar Tugel, Chairman of the Republican Collegium of Advocates of Kazakhstan, also addressed the Plenary, presenting how the Kazakhstan Bar can collaborate with the CCBE as a bridge between Europe and Central Asia, in line with its geographical position. He thanked the CCBE for the work carried out in the PECO committee, highlighting how there are still concerns for the legal profession in Kazakhstan, and wishing for deeper cooperation with our organisations.

CCBE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD – 11TH EDITION

At its Plenary Session in Brussels on 24 November, the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) granted its 2017 Human Rights Award to Georgian lawyer Zaza Khatiashvili.

During the ceremony, the Chair of the CCBE Human Rights Committee, Patrick Henry presented Mr. Khatiashvili as living proof of the positive results in the fight for human rights and for the legal profession, and highlighted how – despite the difficult times we are finding ourselves in – this is still a fight worth continuing.

Mr. Khatiashvili thanked the CCBE for its help and cooperation with the Georgian Bar, and spoke about its troubled experiences in fighting for the rights of lawyers. He further renewed his call for the defence of lawyers who have been illegally detained and for lawyers to be free to exercise their profession.

Mr. Zaza Khatiaşvili has been involved for numerous years in the institutional development of the legal profession in Georgia, as well as the fight against the illegal persecution of lawyers. As President of the Georgian Bar Association, he set up a “Lawyers’ Rights Protection Commission” to enquire into cases of persecuted lawyers. He is also the founder and Chairman of the first Trade Union of Lawyers in Georgia. His continuous efforts for the freedom and independence of the legal profession, development of democracy, and defence of human rights made it so that the President of Georgia honoured Mr. Khatiaşvili with the Medal of Honour in 2015.



Ruthven Gemmell WS, Zaza Khatiaşvili, José De Freitas, Ranko Pelicarić

CCBE-UNBA JOINT CONFERENCE IN KIEV



UNBA President Lidiya Izovitova, CCBE 3rd Vice President Ranko Pelicarić, Pace Legal Chair + Ukrainian Member of Parliament Olena Sotnyk

Given the continuing problems that lawyers are facing in Ukraine, the CCBE and UNBA decided – through the CCBE PECO committee – to organise a special event in 2017 in Kiev.

The event, which took place on 10 November 2017 discussed the “Advocates’ rights and obligations in investigative proceedings”. The event gathered around 100 participants: representatives of the UNBA, regional Bars, individual lawyers, as well as European experts and CCBE representatives, including the CCBE Vice-President Ranko Pelicarić. Olena Sotnyk, Chair of the Council of Europe Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee and Member of the Ukrainian Parliament, was also present and addressed the participants. The following issues were discussed: searches

of advocate’s premises and seizures of documents and computer equipment; summoning of advocates as witnesses in cases against their clients; and covert investigative actions against an advocate.

Ukrainian advocates reported at the event that there have been more than 1,000 searches and seizures this year in law firms, and authorities do not observe the professional secrecy of advocates. The CCBE will issue a follow-up report / letter which will detail its concerns. The report / letter will be addressed to Ukrainian authorities but also to European institutions and bodies.

COMMISSION’S EVALUATION ON 2011 EUROPEAN JUDICIAL TRAINING STRATEGY

The European Commission launched in the beginning of November the Evaluation process for the current 2011 European judicial training strategy, as well as the preparation of a new 2019-2025 strategy, with a view to adoption in the second half of 2018. You can find more information here:

- [Roadmap on the evaluation of the 2011 European judicial training strategy](#)
- [Roadmap on a future European judicial training strategy 2019-2025](#)

The evaluation will cover all EU Member States including candidate and neighbourhood countries of the EU. Both Roadmaps are available for feedback for 4 weeks, after which a public consultation will be launched for 12 weeks. A conference and joint meetings with the stakeholders involved will also be organised.

EUROPEAN LAWYERS DAY 2017 – 4TH EDITION

The 2017 edition of European Lawyers Day (ELD) took place on October 25th. European Lawyers Day is a day that celebrates the rule of law and the legal profession's intrinsic role in its defence, as well as lawyers' common values and contribution to the justice system. The theme for this year was: "E-volving lawyers: how digital transformation can enrich the relationship between the citizen and the lawyer".

The event aimed to familiarise citizens with the new technologies available to the legal profession, and their positive impact on the evolving relationship between lawyers and citizens. Each bar and law society was encouraged to organise events in their national countries to ensure that ELD gains the widest reach possible.

BELGIUM

BarEuregio.eu, in collaboration with the Ordre des Barreaux francophones et germanophones, Avocats.be, invited lawyers, citizens and companies to participate in this year's ELD with a conference on the theme of legal « e-volving lawyers: towards more justice? » at the Spa-Francorchamps Circuit. Speakers included: Pierre Henry (President of the Verviers Bar), Melchior Wathelet Junior (President of the Spa-Francorchamps Circuit), David Fredrich (LegalTech Solutions: Consulting, Conception & Development – Larcier), Dan Kohn (Head of Key Accounts and Networks – SECIB), Melchior Wathelet Senior (First Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union), Eric Balate (lawyer at the Mons Bar, administrateur of Avocats.be and lecturer at UMONS) and Nicolas Petit (Law Faculty, ULg Co-Director, Brussels School of Competition; EDHEC Business School, France). The forum was moderated by [Gilles Quoistiaux](#), journalist from Trends-Tendances.



Avocats.Be President Jean-Pierre Buyle

[Article on La Tribune d'Avocats.be](#)



CZECH REPUBLIC

On European Lawyers' Day (ELD) and this year's topic, "E-Volving Lawyers – How digital transformation can enrich the relationship between the citizen and the lawyer", the Czech Bar Association presented the work of Antonín Mokřý, the CCBE's first Vice-President: "[Will machines replace a human in dispute resolution?](#)" (in original language). The CCBE poster, together with an article on the provision of legal services through electronic platforms, was published in the Bulletin, Journal of the Czech Bar Association which is distributed to all lawyers and trainee lawyers. Moreover, [an informative article about the ELD](#), (in original language): with links to the CCBE European Lawyers' Day website, was published on 25 October 2017 in the On-line version of Bulletin, as well as on the website and on the Twitter account of the Czech Bar Association.

CROATIA

The Croatian Bar celebrated European Lawyers' Day on 25 October 2017 with a conference on "The Impact of Technology on the Legal Profession" at the Croatian Bar premises in Zagreb. In his opening speech, Bar President Robert Travaš said technology should facilitate the work of lawyers but could not replace personal contact between a lawyer and their client. Lawyers Lovro Kovačić and Tonči Ravlić talked about aspects of technology which are already part of lawyers' everyday life.



Me Robert Travaš, Lovro Kovačić, Tonči Ravlić



Panagiotis Lymperopoulos, Nikolas Kanellopoulos, Panagiotis Perakis, Ioanna Kalantzakou, Alkistis Christofilou

GREECE

The Greek Bar Association organised an event on the ELD theme: "E-volving lawyers: how digital transformation can enrich the relationship between the citizen and the lawyer". Speakers included: Vassilis Alexandris, President of the Athens Bar Association and of the Plenary of all Greek Bars; Panagiotis Lymperopoulos, Appellate Judge, Vice President of the Union of Judges and Prosecutors; Ioanna Kalantzakou, Vice President of the Athens Bar Association; Nikolas Kanellopoulos, General Secretary of OPEMED, Vice President of the Union of Greek Law Firms; Alkistis Christofilou, lawyer LL.M, LSE; Panagiotis Perakis, member of the Board of the Athens Bar Association and Chairman of the Access to Justice Committee of the CCBE.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Law Society of Northern Ireland, organised a conference which provided an opportunity to mark ELD by highlighting the legal profession's significant contribution to the rule of law and justice system throughout Europe. Over 50 solicitors attended the conference and had the opportunity to hear from a number of key note speakers, including Ian Huddleston, the President of the Law Society of Northern Ireland, and Stephen Beattie and Andrew Bennett from Allen & Overy LLP. [An article on the event held for ELD was published on the Irish Legal News bulletin.](#)



Stephen Beattie, Allen & Overy, Ian Huddleston, President of the Law Society of Northern Ireland, Andrew Bennett, Allen & Overy, Michael Robinson, Head of United Kingdom Delegation to Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe

POLAND

On the occasion of ELD the Polish National Bar of Attorneys at Law encouraged the Regional Chambers of Attorneys at Law to organise school lessons for children. The meetings aimed at promoting knowledge of the law, as well as to focus on the topic of the Day – E-volving lawyers: how digital transformation can enrich the relationship between the citizen and the lawyer. The lessons were conducted pro bono by Polish attorneys at law. European Lawyers Day in Poland was also marked with the organisation - by the Committee for Professional Development of the Polish National Council of Attorneys at Law - of the conference in Warsaw entitled "A modern law firm – development and challenges". Among the speakers was Mr. Jaap Bosman – international business consultant for law firms from TGO Consulting.



Jaap Bosman at the conference "A modern law firm – development and challenges"

SPAIN

The Spanish Bar Association held a roundtable with its President, Victoria Ortega Benito, and IT lawyers. [A press release \(in original language\)](#) followed the event, mentioning ELD, as well as the national and regional Bars' initiatives and best practices.



Roundtable between Spanish Bar Association President Victoria Ortega Benito, and IT lawyers

SLOVENIA

On 25 October, the Bar Association of Slovenia, in cooperation with the Bar's Law Academy and the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, organised a debate on the topic «Ethical aspects of the use of new technologies in the field of law and protection of citizens» with the participation of four representatives of the Bar Association of Slovenia (Roman Završek, LL.B., President, Živa Drol Novak, Chair of the Ethics Committee, Janez Stušek and Alenka Košorok Humar, Director of the Bar's Law Academy). The event was intended for law students and the general public. Earlier, the Bar Association of Slovenia organised, in cooperation with the Bar's Law Academy and the Ljubljana Regional unit of the Bar Association, a public lecture on the «Due diligence of lawyers in e-commerce». The lecturer was a member of the Bar Association of Slovenia, Janez Stušek.

SLOVAKIA

The Slovak Bar Association organised an essay competition for students related to the ELD theme: "Future and Technology – E-volution of Lawyers". The winner was chosen by a three-member panel composed by one representative of the Bar Council, a member of IT working group and the CCBE Information Officer. The winner - Tomáš Dilong, a bachelor student from Trnava University - was awarded 300 EUR on 16 November. The aim of the competition was to encourage future lawyers to express their views and to promote ELD at universities. This year, the Slovak Bar Association cooperated for the first time with ELSA Slovakia. The essay is to be published in the November issue of the Bar Bulletin along with the article on ELD.

GERMANY

At the "DAV-Forum: digital civil procedure" on 8 November 2017 in Berlin, the DAV discussed how an efficient digital civil procedure should function. The aim of this event was to give the legislator recommendations for the improvement of the current rules so that both the lawyer and the client benefit from the digitalisation of the profession.

PORTUGAL

The Portuguese Bar Association hosted a roundtable amongst Portuguese specialists, IT providers, and lawyers. Special guest Thierry Wickers, held a lecture on the impact of technology on the legal profession.

SWEDEN

European Lawyers Day 2017 was acknowledged on the website of the Swedish Bar Association and on other social media, with information on the theme of the year, as well as the importance of the legal profession for democracy, rule of law and human rights.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Law Society of England and Wales held a seminar titled "The impact of technology on the legal profession" with contributions from Lord Briggs (Supreme Court Judge and Judge in charge of the Chancery Modernisation Review in 2013) and Peter Wright (Founder and Managing Partner of Digital Law UK).

TRACHILD PROJECT

TRACHILD stands for “Training of lawyers representing children in criminal, administrative and civil justice”. It is an EU co-funded project under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of DG Justice whose main aim is to train 180 lawyers from 6 EU Member States on European and national law related to children’s rights. TRACHILD is coordinated by the Paris Bar in partnership with the European Lawyers Foundation and the national bars of Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Ireland and Poland. The project kicked-off in December 2016 and will run until the end of May 2018. So far, 3 seminars have successfully taken place in Paris, Warsaw and Madrid, and they will be followed by the last two seminars in Dublin and Athens. More detailed information about the seminars, including training material and documents of reference on children’s rights, can be accessed through [TRACHILD’s dedicated website](#), which was developed by the Paris Bar in the course of the project.



UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>14/12/17</i>	<i>CCBE Training Conference – Brussels</i>
<i>24/01/18</i>	<i>CCBE Side event at the Council of Europe - Strasbourg</i>
<i>26/01/18</i>	<i>CCBE Roundtable at CPDP conference “National security: a free licence for government surveillance?” – Brussels</i>
<i>08/02/18</i>	<i>CCBE Standing Committee – Vienna</i>
<i>23/03/18</i>	<i>CCBE Standing Committee – Vilnius</i>