

David Bakradze
Chairman of Parliament of Georgia
8 Rustaveli Ave.
Tbilisi 0118
Georgia

Brussels, 15 July 2009

By fax/post

RE: Georgian Bar Association

Dear Mr. Bakradze,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which monitors developments in the legal profession in the Central and Eastern European countries, which represents more than 700,000 European lawyers through its member bars and law societies of the European Union and European Economic Area. In addition to membership from EU/EEA bars, it has also associate and observer representatives from a further ten European countries' bars.

The Georgian Bar Association has obtained observer status within the CCBE in May 2008. The Georgian Bar Association has brought to our attention certain concerns with regard to current discussions on the "Law on Advocates".

In May 2009, there was a Workshop in Signaghi, promoted by the Georgian Bar Association and organised by the TAIEX office of the European Union, in which representatives of the Georgian Bar Association participated, as well as members of the PECO Committee of the CCBE, which monitors developments of the legal profession in the Central and Eastern European countries, in order to discuss changes to the Georgian Law on Advocates and provide examples of best practice from other European jurisdictions.

During the course of this workshop the representatives of the Georgian Bar Association reached a number of conclusions: (1) the quorum requirements for validity of the General Assembly should be removed to enable effective functioning of the Georgian Bar Association; (2) the number of members of the governing bodies of the Georgian Bar Association should be increased; (3) the President of the Georgian Bar Association should be elected by the Executive Council and should be a Georgian advocate who has the right to continue to practise law whilst holding the position of President; (4) the Executive Council should select a full time salaried Executive Secretary who is responsible for the day to day management of the Georgian Bar Association; (5) the Georgian Bar

Association should establish a mandatory CPD (Continuing Professional Development) system for Georgian advocates in line with European standards.

The proposed changes to the Georgian Law on Advocates mentioned above and agreed by the participants in the workshop fully comply with EU and CCBE standards.

I believe that the proposed changes will enable the Georgian Bar Association to overcome its existing structural and organizational problems and will be a good legal basis for the Georgian Bar Association's further effective development.

The CCBE would like to express its support for the Georgian Bar Association as the single bar association representing the profession of Georgian advocates in the belief that a strong, independent and unified bar association is absolutely necessary for the rule of law within a democratic society.

The CCBE is happy to provide further input into the discussions, if this would be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Birgitte GAMMELJORD
CCBE President

CC: Pavle Kublashvili, Head of the Parliament Legal Issue Committee
David Asatiani, Executive Board Member and International Relations Coordinator of the
Georgian Bar Association