

PRESS RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 11:00 CET

The European Commission launches today the
Find-A-Lawyer Search Engine on the e-Justice portal

05/12/2014

Initiated by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) in 2009, the Find-A-Lawyer (FAL) Search Engine is an online search facility which enables cross-border searches for lawyers from a central source on the internet and according to common search fields (city, postal code, practice area, language, professional title, specialisation and lawyer's name). The FAL Search Engine is now up and running on the European e-Justice portal, with support and funding from the European Commission.

The FAL Search Engine is expected to simplify the process of searching for a lawyer in a different EU Member State in three different ways. Firstly, the multilingual interface of the e-Justice portal enables citizens to use the FAL Search Engine in their native EU language. Secondly, the FAL Search Engine has created a single point of entry for the different national databases by including harmonised search criteria and common practice areas in a user-friendly user interface. Thirdly, the need to know the intricacies of the legal profession in a specific country disappears through the explanatory texts which guide the user of the search engine.

The first release of the FAL Search Engine lets users search for a lawyer in 17 countries: the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Finland and the United Kingdom (Scotland). More countries will be included soon in the search engine.

In a video message to CCBE members on the occasion of the first European Lawyers Day on 10 December, European Commissioner for Justice Věra Jourová underlined that: "I am ready to support your efforts in developing tools to modernise justice. Certain tools that you have developed are, or soon will be, part of the European e-Justice portal, for example the "Find-A-Lawyer" tool".

With the Find-A-Lawyer Search Engine national boundaries, different languages, different legal terms and different databases should no longer impede a citizen's access to a lawyer. At the

same time, access to justice in Europe becomes easier, faster and more equal.

Note to editors

Find-A-Lawyer is available to the public on https://e-justice.europa.eu/content_find_a_lawyer-334-en.doc

Find-A-Lawyer is an application of the European e-Justice Portal: <https://e-justice.europa.eu/home.do?action=home&plang=en>

For more information about European Lawyers' Day on 10 December: www.ccbe.eu/lawyersday

About the CCBE

The CCBE represents the bars and law societies of 32 member countries and 13 further associate and observer countries, and through them more than 1 million European lawyers.

Founded in 1960, the CCBE is recognised as the voice of the European legal profession by the EU institutions, and acts as the liaison between the EU and Europe's national bars and law societies. The CCBE has regular institutional contacts with those European Commission officials, and members and staff of the European Parliament, who deal with issues affecting the legal profession. The CCBE is an international non-profit-making association incorporated in Belgium.

For further information,
please contact Hugo ROEBROECK
Director, External Liaison
Tel: +32 (0)2 234 65 28
Fax: +32.(0)2.234.65.11
E-mail: roebroeck@ccbe.eu
Follow us on   