



## PRESS RELEASE

# PACE calls for European Convention on the Profession of Lawyer

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**A major step forward for human rights in Europe as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) calls for the drafting of a European Convention on the Profession of Lawyer**

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) welcomes the recommendation adopted today by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), calling on the Committee of Ministers to draft and adopt a European Convention on the Profession of Lawyer.

This is a major step forward in the protection of human rights and the Rule of Law.

As of today, attacks against lawyers continue to exist in Council of Europe member States with a noticeable upward trend in some of them. Lawyers are being harassed, threatened, detained, under surveillance and even being murdered for carrying out their professional activities.

The CCBE supports the work carried out by the Council of Europe on a European Convention on the Profession of Lawyer. The [CCBE contribution](#) was presented at a hearing before the PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on 12 October 2017.

The contribution of lawyers in defending the Rule of Law, ensuring access to justice and protecting fundamental human rights and freedoms is indispensable. Those who safeguard the rights of all citizens must be able to act independently and without undue interferences.

Upon hearing the news, CCBE President, Antonín Mokry, stated: "The CCBE is very pleased that the need for a European Convention on the Profession has been recognised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The need for such an instrument was highlighted by the PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights which unanimously approved the report drafted by the rapporteur, Sabien Lahaye-Battheu. The CCBE echoes PACE's call and hopes the Committee of Ministers will support this initiative and launch the drafting process of the future convention as soon as possible."

### About the CCBE

The CCBE represents the national bars and law societies of 45 countries, and through them over one million European lawyers.

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