
CCBE

**CONSEIL DES BARREAUX DE
L'UNION EUROPEENNE RAT DER
ANWALTSCHAFTEN DER
EUROPÄISCHEN UNION CONSEJO DE
LOS COLEGIOS DE ABOGADOS DE LA
UNION EUROPEA CONSIGLIO DEGLI
ORDINI FORENSI DELL'UNIONE
EUROPEA RAAD VAN DE BALIES
VAN DE EUROPESE UNIE CONSELHO
DAS ORDENS DE ADVOGADOS DA UNIÃO
EUROPEIA ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΤΩΝ
ΔΙΚΗΓΟΡΙΚΩΝ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΩΝ ΤΗΣ
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙΚΗΣ ΕΝΩΣΗΣ RADET FOR
ADVOKATERNE I DEN EUROPÆISKE
FÆLLESKAB EUROOPAN UNIONIN
ASIANAJAJALIITTOJEN NEUVOSTO
RÅD LÖGMANNAFELAGA I
EVROPUSAMBANDINU RÅDET FOR
ADVOKATFORENINGENE I DET
EUROPEISKE FELLESKAP RÅDET FOR
ADVOKATSAMFUNDEN I DEN
EUROPEISKA UNIONEN COUNCIL OF
THE BARS AND LAW SOCIETIES OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION**

"FRIEDERS" PROGRAMME

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Interim report presented to the Standing Committee on 11 September 1998

I. « Frieders » programme

Since its creation in 1960, the CCBE closely followed the issue of the training of European lawyers, either within the framework of its usual meetings or within the framework of its “Young lawyers workshop” or later its “Committee on training”.

In February 1997, the CCBE received an official mandate from the *Präsidentenkonferenz* in Vienna to propose measures and explore the way forward as regards the professional training of lawyers, this question being unanimously considered as crucial. The CCBE had accepted this mission which was named “**Frieders Programme**”.

Since then, the CCBE collected information on the content, the methods and the organisation of professional training updated on 1st January 1998. These data were the subject of a report to the *Präsidentenkonferenz* which was held in Vienna in February 1998, so as to serve as a basis for reflection with a view to defining orientations. This report was proposing the **elaboration of quality criteria** for the training of lawyers (as for its **content**, its **methods** and its **organisation**), in order to increase and standardize the quality level of the European professionals with a **triple objective**:

- to improve the position of the European profession within the framework of the world liberalisation of legal services;
- to improve the position of the profession related to other protagonists playing a part in the market of legal services;
- to improve mutual trust between the Member States, so as to facilitate the intra-European mobility (within the framework of the “Diploma” directive or the “Establishment” Directive).

In order to define these “minimum quality standards”, the CCBE has proposed to the “**Stage ‘98**” organisation to collaborate in order not to duplicate efforts. The following **collaboration programme** was defined:

- *preparation phase*:
 - a committee of experts would be set up as part of “Stage”: this committee would be composed of the current experts from “Stage”, as well as of experts appointed by the CCBE to complete the latter;

- this committee of experts would be in charge, basing itself on two documents (the document prepared by the Stage Secretariat as well as the report presented by the CCBE on the occasion of the *Präsidentenkonferenz* held in Vienna in February 1998), to prepare an “experts’ report” which would be submitted to the “Stage 98” meeting to be held in October 1998 in Bruges, where the latter would be the subject of a discussion;
 - at the end of the debates of “Stage 98”, the final report entitled “Conclusions Stage ‘98” would be transmitted to the CCBE;
 - in the meantime, the CCBE would follow up its work of analysis and preparation regarding the institutional aspects of professional training (legal, organisational and financial aspects);
- *decision taking phase:*
- the Stage ’98 “Conclusions” and a report prepared by the CCBE regarding the institutional aspects would appear on the agenda of the Plenary Session of the CCBE at the end of 1998;
 - in case the national delegations should find a political agreement as to an initiative to be taken (for example minimal standards, proposal for a European legislation...), it would be communicated on the occasion of the *Präsidentenkonferenz* to be held in Vienna in February 1999, as an answer to the mandate entrusted to the CCBE by the Bar leaders at the *Präsidentenkonferenz* held in 1997 and 1998.

However only part of this programme managed to be carried out, the Stage Committee of experts not having been able to progress rapidly, for various reasons. This circumstance is of very likely to hinder the whole of the programme, as the President M. GOUT explained in a letter addressed on 26 August to the “Stage 98” Co-ordinator (Annex 1). The matter is currently under consideration.

II. “Schuman” Programme

The “Schuman” programme presented by the CCBE in March 1998 was accepted. The latter is dealing with the realisation of a “Practical guide for the implementation of Community Law” (See copy of the project accepted by the Commission in Annex II).