

ISSUE #106: APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2024

CCBE-INFO

Newsletter

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EUROPEAN LAWYERS
EUROPEAN BARS
CCBE
BARREAUX EUROPÉENS
AVOCATS EUROPÉENS

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Upcoming Events

The BREULAW project: an EU-funded programme immersing European lawyers

What is the BREULAW project?

BREULAW, the short name for “Development of a lawyer’s training curriculum in EU law and study visits to EU institutions in Brussels”, is a project co-funded by the European Union and run by a consortium composed of the CCBE and the European Lawyers Foundation (ELF). This project, which commenced on 1 February 2023 and will last for a duration of 24 months, aims to contribute to the EU’s objective of continuing training on EU law reaching 15% of lawyers in the EU. The BREULAW project derives from the [study](#) on the state of play of lawyers’ training in the EU and its relevant recommendations, and is based on previous CCBE projects and policy documents, such as, for example, [CCBE recommendation](#) on Training Outcomes for European lawyers adopted in 2007.

Both the development of the curriculum and the study visits (photo 1 and 2) are considered of crucial importance in the training of lawyers in order to improve their skills in EU law and their understanding of the EU institutions.



24
months

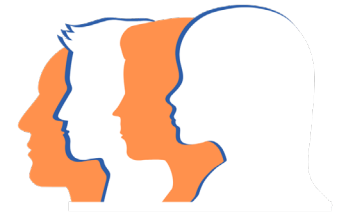


This project commenced on 1 February 2023 and will last for a duration of 24 months.

15%
lawyers trained
in EU law

The EU aims to reach 15% of EU lawyers with training in EU law.





What BREULAW participants say

“The visit to the CCBE was an incredible opportunity to discover the organization and meet some truly wonderful people. The organization and quality of the conferences were outstanding, and I learned so much from them.”

Gabriel AL-QAZEEM | Lawyer | Luxembourg

“We spent two memorable days in Brussels so enjoyed to discover European institutions; our discussions were very enriching and constructive.”

Natacha BRITSCH | Lawyer | France

“It was really nice to meet you all and to learn so much with these visits to the EU institutions. These were two wonderful days.”

Isabel MALHEIRO DE ALMEIDA | Lawyer | Portugal

“I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity of participating in such an interesting project.”

Ioana CANTARAGIU | Lawyer | Romania



What are the main objectives of the project?

- **Developing a European lawyer's training curriculum in EU Law**

The curriculum will be published during the upcoming months and will comprise of a check-list of the principles and procedures which practising lawyers should be aware of in order to ensure a proper application of EU law in their everyday working lives. In addition, there will be expected training outcomes listed at the beginning of each of the sections of the curriculum, explaining the concrete skills, knowledge and practical abilities that the curriculum aims to see realised.

Since initial and continuous training of lawyers are within the competence of the national Bars and Law Societies, and each national Bar has its own approach, the curriculum is aimed to be flexible enough to fit in with national approaches, while still ensuring a coherence and harmony in EU law training across Member States.

- **Study visits to the EU institutions in Brussels**

This is the first time that an EU-wide programme enabled lawyers to participate in study visits to Brussels to learn first-hand about the work undertaken by the EU institutions. Previous programmes had included visits to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) but not the EU institutions in Brussels (the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU). The visits also included a visit of the CCBE premises and a presentation of the CCBE activities.

The CCBE is delighted to be involved in this project and the feedback it has received from the participants, which has been extremely positive.



> Consult the CCBE website for more information on the **BREULAW** project.

CCBE Plenary Session in Lausanne



17.05.2024

CCBE Plenary Session in Lausanne

The CCBE held its Plenary Session on 17 May 2024 in Lausanne, Switzerland. The meeting was opened by CCBE President, Pierre-Dominique Schupp, and welcomed two external speakers:



- Yves Donzallaz, President of the Supreme Court of Switzerland ([photo 1](#)), who delivered a speech on the independence of judges and the judicial system.
- Lucie Du Pasquier, Scientific expertise and publications manager of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe ([photo 2](#)), who presented the work of the Foundation and highlighted the comprehensive body of resources it has on the history of European integration.

The CCBE Presidency and the delegations subsequently discussed various matters, including on the development of a lawyer's training curriculum in EU Law, human rights, deontology, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) Hearings' Recording as a Judicial Training Tool, and the CCBE long-term strategy with respect to the work carried out by the CCBE Future Strategy Task Force on this matter.



Further to the fruitful discussion on numerous topics, the following items were approved:

CCBE statement on the situation of lawyers in Tunisia



[READ THE
DOCUMENT](#)

On the day of its Plenary Session, the CCBE published a statement strongly condemning the recent violent arrest of Tunisian lawyers Sonia Dahmani and Mehdi Zagrouba, as well as the acts of torture perpetrated against him, and the attempted arrest of lawyer Nidhal Salhi. The CCBE unanimously expressed the solidarity of the entire legal profession in Europe and invited the competent authorities at EU, Council of Europe, and international level to take the necessary measures to support these lawyers.

CCBE position paper on the proposal for a Directive laying down minimum rules to prevent and counter the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit, and stay in the Union



[READ THE
DOCUMENT](#)

As outlined in its position paper, the CCBE is particularly concerned with the vague definitions of the provisions of this proposal, which do not address the declared objective of clarifying which offences should be criminalised. As a result, the proposal may impact lawyers providing legal advice in the field of migration and asylum law, as well as risks having a chilling effect on lawyers and criminalising legal assistance. Therefore, the CCBE requests EU legislators to clarify the wording and include a mandatory, explicit, unambiguous, and broad-in-scope solidarity clause.

CCBE key principles and best practices in the relationship between lawyers and legal expenses insurers



[READ THE
DOCUMENT](#)

The CCBE published a document presenting six key principles and best practices in the relationship between lawyers and legal expenses insurers. Based on a set of national practices reported in certain countries, the key points essentially recall the principle of the free choice of a lawyer and its legal consequences. It also promotes effective legal protection through the assistance of a lawyer, and it seeks to avoid inappropriate obstacles arising from insurance companies' practices.

CCBE paper regarding AML supervision and practices by Bars and Law Societies



The CCBE issued a report on key findings based on the data it collected from its members from 2022 to 2024 on the supervisory measures and practices by Bars in the field of anti-money laundering (AML). The aim of the paper is to facilitate the exchange of information amongst Bars and Law Societies in the hope of also providing inspiration. Furthermore, it is hoped that the findings will inform the EU legislators in regard to AML.

The key findings indicate that Bars and Law Societies are very engaged in undertaking their supervisory duties under the AML framework and that the majority of Bars enabled by law to do so have put in place supervisory measures to ensure that the AML framework is complied with by lawyers. In addition, the paper provides some recommendations where there is room for improvement.

CCBE proposals for the upcoming online ECtHR application form



In the context of the current development of an electronic application form by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), the CCBE identified practical points arising from the use of the ECtHR's current application form. These points are based on the practical experiences of lawyers and are intended to assist the ECtHR in addressing some of the practical difficulties which have arisen with the current application form.



During its Plenary Session, the CCBE also had the pleasure of granting its **Amicus Curiae Contest Award 2024**, which rewards a law student or trainee lawyer for preparing the best fictitious brief on the case of a lawyer working to defend human rights. The 2024 prize was awarded to **Jana Jana Brezovičová** (photo 3), a member of the Slovak Bar Association (SAK) as a legal trainee in the law firm CLC advokátska kancelária s.r.o.

> Read the winning CCBE Amicus Curiae Brief 2024 [here](#).

> For more information on the 2024–2025 edition of the Amicus Curiae Contest, visit the dedicated [page](#) on the CCBE website.



WATCH THE OVERVIEW VIDEO OF THE PLENARY SESSION IN LAUSANNE.



WATCH THE HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO OF THE CCBE AMICUS CURIAE CONTEST AWARD CEREMONY 2024.

High-level meetings at the Council of Europe

A series of high-level meetings between the CCBE and the Council of Europe took place on 14 May 2024 in Strasbourg, France. The importance of the future European Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer, one of the CCBE’s current priorities, was a main focus point of the discussions.



The CCBE President, Pierre-Dominique Schupp, and Secretary-General, Simone Cuomo, were honoured to meet with Council of Europe Secretary-General, Marija Pejčinović Burić (photo 1 and 3). The meeting was an excellent opportunity to exchange on the ongoing cooperation between the CCBE and the Council of Europe, with a particular focus on the European Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer. In addition, the meeting provided the chance to delve into the latest artificial intelligence developments and their impact on legal processes, which the Secretary-General had previously highlighted during a CCBE high-level panel discussion for European Lawyers Day 2023.

The CCBE representatives also met with Christos Giakoumopoulos, Council of Europe Director General on Human Rights and Rule of Law, and Gerald Dunn, Council of Europe Secretary to the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) (photo 2 and 4). The discussions emphasised the crucial work of the Council of Europe in supporting the European legal profession, defending the rule of law, and upholding human rights. ■



13.05.2024 – 15.05.2024

8th meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Protection of Lawyers

The Chair of the CCBE European Convention Working Group, Laurent Pettiti, and CCBE Legal Advisor, Nathan Roosbeek, participated in the 8th meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Protection of Lawyers (CJ-AV). The meeting was held from 13 to 15 May 2024, focusing on the conclusion of the draft European Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer, a pivotal advancement for the rule of law.



Photo credits: Council of Europe

14.05.2024

Reception in view of the upcoming conclusion of the drafting of the European Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer

In the margins of the 8th meeting of the CJ-AV, the CCBE, together with Ambassador Patrick Engelberg, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe (photo 1), organised a reception in view of the upcoming conclusion of the drafting of the European Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer.

The reception gathered the President, Registrar, several judges of the European Court of Human Rights, ambassadors to the Council of Europe, representatives of the Council of Europe, as well as participants of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Protection of Lawyers.

On this occasion, the CCBE President, Pierre-Dominique Schupp (photo 2), stressed the need to adopt the draft Convention in order to ensure the defence of the rule of law, human rights, and access to justice.



11.06.2024 – 13.06.2024

22.05.2024 – 23.05.2024

102nd plenary meeting of the Council of Europe European Committee on Legal Co-operation

The Chair of the CCBE European Convention Working Group, Laurent Pettiti, furthermore attended the 102nd plenary meeting of the Council of Europe European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) (photo 1) from 11 to 13 June 2024 in Strasbourg, France. The future Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer was on the agenda of the discussions, together with other important topics, such as justice and the rule of law, family law and children's rights, public law, as well as promoting and facilitating the operation of Conventions within the CDCJ's remit.



Photo credits: Council of Europe

> Further information on the work of the CDCJ is available [here](#).

CCBE participation in International Bar Association events



The CCBE President, Pierre-Dominique Schupp, and Secretary-General, Simone Cuomo, were delighted to participate in the series of events of the International Bar Association (IBA) Mid-Year Meeting in Bucharest on 22 and 23 May 2024. During these events, the CCBE had the opportunity to have valuable exchanges with the Chairs of the IBA Bar Issues Commission, Ken Murphy and Steven Richman, as well as the Chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, Berit Reiss-Andersen (photo 2).

In addition, various pertinent topics were discussed during the events, including the role of Bars and Law Societies during national elections, artificial intelligence and professional ethics, as well as the independent regulation of legal services. Furthermore, the CCBE had the opportunity during the events to highlight the CCBE Manifesto, in light of the 2024 European Parliament elections and the next European Commission.

The CCBE was also pleased to have the chance of meeting with the Honorary President of the National Association of Romanian Bars (UNBR) and Head of UNBR's delegation to CCBE, Călin-Andrei Zamfirescu, the Councillor of the UNBR's Standing Committee, Dan Oancea, and the Information Officer to the Romanian Delegation, Constantin Parascho (photo 3).



> Find more details about the programme of the IBA Mid-Year Meeting in Bucharest [here](#).



European Judicial Training Conference: supporting the digitalisation of justice

On 25 and 26 April 2024, the European Commission and the Belgian Judicial Training Institute organised the European Judicial Training Conference in Brussels, Belgium. During the conference, the CCBE Secretary-General, Simone Cuomo, as well as the CCBE Senior Legal Advisor, Indra Bule, and several CCBE experts (photo 1) provided their contribution for the upcoming European Judicial Training Strategy and repeatedly stressed the need to ensure that all legal professionals, including the lawyers, should equally benefit from judicial training on EU law supported by EU funding. The CCBE considers this of the utmost importance, especially in view of the developments regarding the digitalisation of justice.

Providing lawyers with similar training resources at an EU level to that which exists at a centralised level for judges and prosecutors would contribute to maintaining a fair, effective, and consistent legal system, as well as facilitate access to justice for citizens and promote respect for the rule of law. ■



29.05.2024

Joint CCBE-ELF webinar on Anti-Money Laundering for lawyers

Following the success of the previous CCBE-ELF webinar on “Anti-Money Laundering for Lawyers: The new EU AML package and general practical advice” on 26 February 2024, the CCBE and European Lawyers Foundation (ELF) organised a second joint webinar, which took place on 25 May 2024. The two webinars combined gathered more than 2500 participants!

The joint webinar was opened with a welcome speech by Dominique Attias, Chair of the Board of ELF. In addition, the Chair of the CCBE Anti-Money Laundering Committee, Claudio Cocuzza, and experts from the Committee, Emma-Jane Williams and Arne Engels, made presentations during the webinar. ■

> Watch the recording of the webinar [here](#).



FREE

WEBINAR

Unified Patent Court
“One year on”

24 JUNE, 2024, 10:00 - 12:30 CET

REGISTER NOW

#TRAVAR Training of Lawyers in various areas of EU Law

24.06.2024

Joint CCBE-ELF webinar on the Unified Patent Court – “One year on”

The CCBE, jointly with the European Lawyers Foundation (ELF), also organised a webinar on the topic of “Unified Patent Court – One year on”. This webinar was launched in the framework of the TRAVAR (Training of Lawyers on Various Areas of EU Law) project, which is financed by the support of the Justice Programme of the EU. The webinar was opened with a speech from CCBE President Pierre-Dominique Schupp. There were more than 200 participants from all EU Member States and beyond. ■

> More information on the programme is available [here](#).

> Watch the recording of the webinar [here](#), and more information on the TRAVAR project [here](#).

04.04.2024 -05.04.2024

Financial Action Task Force Private Sector Consultative Forum



On 4 and 5 April 2024, the Chair of the CCBE Anti-Money Laundering Committee, Claudio Cocuzza, took part in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Private Sector Consultative Forum in Vienna, Austria. Along with colleagues from the American Bar Association ([photo 1](#)), the CCBE ensured that the legal profession is represented during this important event, as lawyers are key partners in the FATF’s efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. ■

04.2024 – 05.2024

Workshops organised by the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)

From April to June, the Chair of the CCBE AML Committee and an expert, Claudio Cocuzza and Arne Engels respectively, supported by the CCBE Secretariat, took part in three workshops organised by the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). Undertaken under an overarching title “The Role of Professional Service Providers in Enabling Financial Crime in the EU and the UK”, the online discussions allowed the CCBE to provide comments regarding supervision, enforcement and incentives for compliance in the field of AML. ■

12.06.2024

15.04.2024

Joint side event of the UNFCCC SB60 Bonn Climate Change Conference

On 12 June 2024, the Chair of CCBE Environment and Climate Change Committee, Jean-Marc Gollier, presented the work of the CCBE at the joint side event of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies 60th Session Bonn Climate Change Conference on "Law, lawyers & law associations in NDC realisation: implementing climate competent legal advice" organised by the International Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the Brazilian Bar Association.

The event explored the unique and evolving roles of law, lawyers, and law associations in implementing the Paris Agreement and advancing the net zero transition, through regulation, training, as well as the integration of climate considerations into legal practice. ■

> More information on the programme is available [here](#).



Law, lawyers & law associations in NDC realisation: implementing climate competent legal advice

Exploring the unique and evolving roles of law, lawyers and law associations in implementing the Paris Agreement and advancing the net zero transition, through regulation, training and integration of climate considerations into legal practice

UNFCCC SB60 Side Event
Date: 12 June 2024
Time: 11:45—13:00
Where: Berlin Room, WCCB
Moderator: Emily Morison (Project Lawyer, Legal Policy & Research Unit, International Bar Association)

Contact for more information:
emily.morison@int-bar.org

Featuring insights from legal experts representing bar associations across the world:

- **Achinthi Vithanage** – Governing Council Member, Section on Environment Energy & Resources (SEER), American Bar Association; Professor of Law & Associate Director of Environmental Law Programs, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, United States
- **Jean-Marc Gollier** – Chair, Environment and Climate Change Committee, CCBE; Senior Counsel, Eubelius, Belgium
- **Leticia Campos Mello** – Secretary-general of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Former President of the Committee for the Defence of Sustainable Development, Federal Council of the Brazilian Bar Association; Dual-qualified Lawyer, Brazil / England and Wales
- **Roger Martella** – Secretary, Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law Section (SEERIL), IBA; Group Vice President, Chief Sustainability Officer, Global Head of Engagement, Government Affairs, and Policy, GE Vernova, United States
- **Wilhelm Berghaler** – Council Member, SEERIL, IBA; Partner, Haslinger / Nagele, Austria

Access to data by law enforcement authorities

On 15 April, the CCBE sent a [letter](#) to the High Level Group on Law Enforcement Access to Data, co-chaired by the European Commission's DG Home Affairs and the Belgian Presidency of the Council. The group, set up in June 2023, was examining the current regulatory landscape on access to data by law enforcement authorities. The CCBE raised concerns about the protection of confidentiality of lawyer-client communications and recalled several principles that should apply to all regimes regulating access to data by government authorities. ■

04.06.2024

European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) legal training on the Charter of the EU

On 4 June 2024, in Luxembourg, CCBE Legal Advisor, Anna Smolińska ([photo 1](#)), addressed the participants of the legal training on the Charter of the EU, organised by the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE). The presentation highlighted the CCBE's efforts to strengthen and support the European legal profession, with a focus on the field of asylum and migration. ■



23.04.2024

Rountable between the CCBE, the Plenary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and Government Agents before the ECtHR

On 23 April 2024, the CCBE Permanent Delegation to the ECtHR (PD STRAS) held a roundtable to have an exchange between the CCBE, the Plenary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and Government Agents before the ECtHR on how to improve the execution of ECtHR Judgements. The roundtable ([photo 1 and 2](#)) gathered Roman Zavrsek, CCBE Vice-President; Isabelle Niedlispacher, Belgian Agent before the European Court of Human Rights; Givi Mikanadze, Chair of the PACE Sub-Committee on the Implementation of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights; Constantinos Efstathiou, PACE Rapporteur on the Implementation of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights; and members of PD STRAS.

Overall the discussion was very appreciated and interactive and participants agreed that collaboration between all represented should be further promoted in order to further improve the execution of ECtHR Judgements. ■



1



2

11.04.2024

Regulation amending Protocol n°3 on the Statute of the Court of Justice and of the amended rules of procedure of the Court of Justice and of the General Court

The Regulation amending Protocol n°3 of the Statute of the Court of Justice with the partial transfer of preliminary rulings to the General Court has been adopted by the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council. The final act was adopted on 11 April 2024.

Since then, the Council has been working with the Court of Justice to amend the rules of procedure so as to fully implement this reform on the operational side of the Court of Justice and General Court. The CCBE Permanent Delegation to the Court of Justice and the General Court and the EFTA Court Committee examined the draft amendments to the rules of procedure of both courts, and prepared some comments in response. These comments were submitted and discussed by the Court of Justice and Council during their meeting on 26 April 2024. ■

> Read the CCBE comments on the draft rules of procedure of the Court of Justice and the General Court [here](#).

15.04.2024

EFTA Court's consultation paper on the report for the hearing in Advisory Opinion Cases










On 15 April 2024, the CCBE participated in an open consultation organised by the EFTA Court on the report for the hearing in Advisory Opinion Cases. As outlined in the response, the CCBE considers that the report of the hearing should be maintained.

> Read the CCBE response to the EFTA Court's consultation paper on the report for the hearing in Advisory Opinion Cases [here](#).



CCBE letters in support of endangered lawyers

Since the beginning of April 2024, the CCBE sent 20 letters and joined several initiatives in support of endangered lawyers in the following countries:

	AFGHANISTAN	Lack of access to lawyers in criminal proceedings	Link
	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	Detention, judicial harassment and threats against lawyer Vasvija Vidović	Link
	CHINA	Joint statement asking for the immediate release of human rights lawyer Yu Wensheng and activist Xu Yan	Link
	COLOMBIA	Continuous judicial harassment of lawyer Hipólito Mendoza	Link
	ISRAEL	Detention of 18 Palestinian lawyers	Link
		Continued detention of lawyer Diala Ayeshe	Link
	KYRGYZSTAN	Pressure exerted on lawyers Erkin Sadanbekov and Kantemir Turdaliev	Link
	LEBANON	Threats against lawyer Mohammad Sabloun	Link
	NIGER	Concerns regarding violations of lawyers' professional guarantees in Niger	Link
	NIGERIA	Death of lawyer Garricks Anyanwu Esq	Link

	PALESTINE	Threats against lawyer Muhannad Karajeh	Link
	RUSSIA	Draft bill interfering with the legal profession and the independence of lawyers in Russia	Link
	SAUDI ARABIA	Continued detention of lawyer Waleed Abu Al-Khair	Link
	SYRIA	Death due to torture of Lawyer Thamer al-Talla	Link
	TUNISIA	Violent arrest of lawyers Sonia Dahmani, Mehdi Zagrouba, and attempted arrest of lawyer Nidhal Salhi	Link
	TURKEY	Sentence of lawyers Selçuk Kozağaçlı and Barkın Tımtık	Link
		Trial and judicial harassment against 6 lawyers in the Adnan Oktars case	Link
		Joint statement on the lack of justice for the unlawful killing of Kurdish lawyer Tahir Elçi	Link
	VENEZUELA	Detention of lawyer Rocío San Miguel	Link

Upcoming CCBE Events



: 1 September 2024

Opening of the applications for the *Amicus Curiae* Contest
2024–2025



: 4 October 2024

CCBE Standing Committee
– *Brussels*



: 25 October 2024

European Lawyers Day 2024 focused on the importance of the
self-regulation of the legal profession



: 22 November 2024

CCBE Plenary Session
– *Brussels*