



CCBE Info

N° 47
November 2015

Expression of Condolence - European Lawyers Day – European Commission: Training – 10th anniversary of the Georgian Bar Association – TAXE committee adopts final TAXE report – Multi-aspect initiative to improve cross-border videoconferencing – 90th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Supreme Bar Council

EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCE

The CCBE would like to express its sincere condolences to the families of the victims of the attacks in Paris on the 13th November. Our thoughts go out in particular to the colleagues and family of Mr Valentin Ribet, a young lawyer of the Paris Bar, who died in the Bataclan theatre.

These attacks undermine core democratic principles in France and in Europe that are valued by the CCBE and defended by lawyers.

Furthermore, the CCBE would like to express its shock at the assassination of human rights lawyer and President of the Diyarbakır Bar Association Tahir Elci, who was shot dead on November 28th in Turkey. Our thoughts are with his colleagues and family.

EUROPEAN LAWYERS DAY

As a reminder European Lawyers Day will be held on **10 December 2015**, in conjunction with International Human Rights Day. The theme is “Freedom of Expression”.

A video interview with CCBE Maria Ślęzak will shortly be available on the website, as well as the transcript of the interview. We encourage all of our members to use this to promote ELD.

The Handbook and Poster are also available on the website: www.ccbe.eu/lawyersday.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: TRAINING

On **29 October**, the European Commission published the European Judicial Training Report 2015. The Report included for the first time a table with a breakdown per Member State for lawyers.

The Commission also published an ‘Advice for Training Providers’, designed for those who provide training to the legal professions.

It gives advice on how to best prepare, implement and follow-up training activities including specific examples. Particular attention is paid to training activities related to EU law, but many recommendations also apply to training in other areas of law.

It can be [downloaded from the Commission website](#).

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

On **7 November 2015**, CCBE President Maria Ślżak attended a conference, in Tbilisi, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Georgian Bar Association. The theme of this conference was "Freedom of Lawyers' Profession and Institutional Guarantees". There was a fruitful discussion on the problems faced by Georgian lawyers in their daily practice, which highlighted the need to continuously raise issues at both

national and international levels. On the occasion of this conference, Maria Ślżak was awarded with the Order of Luarsab Andronikashvili for her generous contribution to the development of the Georgian Bar Association and to the protection of lawyer's rights. Maria Ślżak is the first ever foreign lawyer to be awarded with the Order of Georgian Bar Association.



CCBE President Maria Ślżak receiving the Order of Luarsab Andronikashvili

TAXE COMMITTEE ADOPTS FINAL TAXE REPORT

On **26 October 2015**, the European Parliament Special TAXE Committee adopted its report 'on tax rulings and other measures similar in nature or effect'.

The wording of this report has raised serious concerns amongst CCBE members – as did the draft report of the TAXE committee on which the CCBE already commented in September. Particular concerns related to [paragraph 163](#).

The proposals made in paragraph 163 may have implications which are not compatible with the core principles and obligations of lawyers, in particular independence and professional secrecy. Sanctions such as revoking the professional license of a lawyer fall

within the field of competence of Bars and Law Societies or their regulatory bodies. The proposals also raise questions regarding fundamental rights, including, for example, the presumption of innocence, the right to silence and not to incriminate oneself and legal certainty.

The CCBE has sent its concerns to the heads of political groups in the Parliament ahead of the planned adoption of the TAXE report by the Plenary of the European Parliament at the end of November 2015.

The **TAXE report** is [available here](#) (though currently only in English).

MULTI-ASPECT INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE CROSS-BORDER VIDEOCONFERENCING

On **5 November**, a kick-off meeting took place in Vienna which marked the beginning of the multi-aspect initiative to improve cross-border videoconferencing project, coordinated by the Austrian Ministry of Justice. The objective of this project is to promote the practical use of

cross-border videoconferencing, in order to improve the overall functioning of e-Justice systems in Member States and at European level.

The CCBE will bring to the project its knowledge about criminal and civil law,

to identify cases that would benefit from cross-border video-conferencing, and to ensure compliance with procedural rights and duties of parties. During the kick-off meeting, the overall work plan was discussed as well as the project's next steps.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE SUPREME BAR COUNCIL

On **13th and 14th November**, Mr. Gemmell attended the 90th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Supreme Bar Council in Sofia and made a speech of congratulations.



Mr. Gemmell attending the event in Sofia

UPCOMING EVENTS

10-11/12 Paris Bar – Opening of the Legal Year, Paris

11-12/12 Lithuanian Advocate's Day, Vilnius