

# PRESS RELEASE

## Memorandum of Understanding on Migration signed between the CCBE and ABA ROLI

21/03/2016

**At the CCBE Standing Committee on 18 March, the CCBE and the ABA ROLI signed a Memorandum of Understanding marking cooperation between the two organisations in the area of migration.**

At the CCBE Standing Committee on 18 March, the CCBE and the ABA ROLI signed an agreement marking cooperation between these two organisations to provide support for refugees and for legal practitioners assisting refugees.

The principle of cooperation in this field was originally agreed by the CCBE Standing Committee in October 2015.

The cooperation project between the CCBE and the ABA ROLI covers two main areas: firstly, a text message based legal helpline platform, already developed for Turkey, which could be expanded to include other countries. Secondly, support for those providing legal assistance for refugees taking the Western Balkans Route from Turkey to the EU, helping to ensure that refugees are aware of their rights under international and national law to safely and legally transit through the Balkans; building the capacity of local officials who come into direct contact with refugees to appropriately and lawfully respond to the crisis; and increasing public awareness among local communities of the issues faced by refugees.

ABA ROLI is an international development program that promotes rule of law by working with in-country partners to build sustainable institutions and societies that deliver justice, foster economic opportunity and ensure respect for human dignity. The role of ABA ROLI was presented at the Standing Committee by two representatives: Angela Conway and Elizabeth Givens.

### 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.

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