
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 RÅDET 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****

**CCBE RESOLUTION ON TRAINING
FOR LAWYERS IN THE EU**

CCBE Resolution on training for lawyers in the EU

Acknowledgement

1. The Directives on the free provision of services, recognition of diplomas and free establishment, create a legislative framework greatly facilitating lawyers' mobility in the whole European Union.
2. If this legislative framework is an essential condition for mobility, there is still another condition which no text may decree: confidence in the quality of the lawyer coming from another Member State.
3. The report set out by the CCBE at the Vienna Presidents' Conference held in February 1998 proves that notable differences exist in the preparation of young lawyers for the legal profession, as in the requirement of a continuing education for the Bar's members.
4. The organisation of Justice is within the exclusive competence of Member States and is still marked by notable differences between the States. It is the framework of a great part of lawyers and one may really think that those national differences shall not disappear before long.

General conclusions

1. The harmonisation of the training quality does not necessarily imply a harmonisation of its content. The priority aim is to be a harmonised quality.
2. However, it is essential to guarantee that every lawyer who gets to a Bar within the European Union, has received an education allowing him to apprehend the European dimension of his profession: this implies a training fitting to professional practice of Community law, basic knowledge of comparative law and competence while using modern techniques to accede to information and communication.
3. The competent authority of Member States must attend to put training in connection with each other rather than create new differences while reforming initial or continuing education of lawyers.
4. As the European Union is the legal framework within which the connection is to take place, it is the CCBE's responsibility to centralise pieces of information and to prepare decisions.

Action to be undertaken by the CCBE

The CCBE agrees that it will take steps to make detailed recommendations to the bars and law societies of the European Union on the harmonisation of the quality of legal training in the EU. These recommendations will cover the following principles:

1. training and examination in professional practice before gaining a legal professional qualification, and the duration and content of such training;
2. practical on-the-job training (such as a 'stage' or pupillage) under the supervision of a lawyer, before or where appropriate after, qualification;
3. all legal training in the EU to take account not only of domestic requirements but also of:
 - the use of Community law focused on concrete and practical applications of that law;
 - an introduction to characteristic features of great European legal systems;
 - knowledge of the European Code of Conduct;
4. training of trainers;
5. compulsory continuing training, with minimum components relating to the number of hours that all EU lawyers should complete annually and the proportion of hours dedicated to Community law and European comparative law.

The CCBE asks its Training Committee to prepare detailed recommendations along these lines, after further consultation with member bars and law societies.