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## **CCBE RECOMMENDATION ON CONTINUING TRAINING**

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**Conseil des Barreaux de l'Union européenne – Council of the Bars and Law Societies of the European Union**  
*association internationale sans but lucratif*

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The European Bars and Law Societies represented in the CCBE

➤ **RECOGNISE:**

- that lawyers, given their role of defending rights and freedoms, are obliged to guarantee the highest standards of professional practice;
- that all lawyers have to promote the ideals and ethical standards of their profession and maintain their professional competence in order to fulfil their professional obligations to society;
- that lawyers, Bars and Law Societies play an important role in lifelong professional learning which is recognised as a core element of the EU's strategy, established at the Lisbon Summit of 2000, to enable Europe to become "the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustained economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion" and that the European Commission's *Communication on Making a European Area of Lifelong Learning a Reality* of 21 November 2001, seeks "to promote life long learning for all";
- that lawyers always have to bear in mind their professional training, maintaining and increasing their knowledge in the fields in which they practise, as is recognised in particular by the CCBE Code of Conduct Article 3.1.3. which requires a lawyer not to "... handle a matter which he knows or ought to know he is not competent to handle...";
- that lawyers should always extend their knowledge and skills in new directions, bearing in mind Article 5.8 of the CCBE Code of Deontology that encourages the improvement of trust, mutual confidence and co-operation between European lawyers, which is promoted by extending their knowledge of each others' national procedures and laws and by participating in the training of lawyers from other Member States;
- that lawyers should be encouraged to study any laws, legal systems or legal methods and other subjects and skills that seem appropriate to their needs in providing legal services;
- that for European Economic Area migrant lawyers double continuing education requirements should not be required in accordance with the CCBE Guidelines on the Implementation of the Establishment Directive (98/5/EC of 16th February 1998) paragraph 13, thus promoting the mutual recognition of training;
- that this Recommendation is not intended to impose a solution or obligation, but to encourage the adoption of continuing training regimes and to confirm a culture of quality and training for lawyers, in the public interest.

➤ **AND THEREFORE THE BARS AND LAW SOCIETIES OF THE CCBE ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION IN ORDER TO FACILITATE their role in helping their MEMBERS fulfil THESE GOALS:**

#### **I SCOPE**

This Recommendation covers all lawyers practising in the European Economic Area.

#### **II AREAS OF CONTINUING TRAINING**

Lawyers should undergo continuing training in their chosen area of practice, including the applicable European Community law, and deontology.

#### **III METHOD OF CONTINUING TRAINING**

The following activities can be taken into consideration for continuing training:

- Attendance at lectures, seminars, meetings, conferences and congresses
- E-learning
- Writing of articles, essays, books
- Teaching
- Any other activity recognised by the profession.

#### **IV EVALUATION AND MONITORING OF CONTINUING TRAINING**

Continuing training undertaken by lawyers should be regularly evaluated, which could be done with a weighted allotment of hours/credit points being given for the various methods and duration of training. Control over fulfilment of continuing training obligations (including the consequences of non-completion) could include a system of self-certification by lawyers subject to checks and should be administered by the competent Bar or Law Society on the basis of domestic law or other rules or regulations where appropriate.