

Justice

Independence

Confidentiality

Rule of law

# The role of the European institutions in upholding the core values of the legal profession in the administration of justice

• 23 October 2023 •

European Parliament, Room 7C050 – building Paul-Henri Spaak  
Participate in person: [event@ccbe.eu](mailto:event@ccbe.eu) | Participate online: [link](#)

08.30 – 09.00

Welcome coffee

9.00 – 9.30  
Welcome addresses

- Vice-President of the European Parliament, Katarina Barley (TBC)
- CCBE President, Panagiotis Perakis

9.30 – 10.45

## Panel 1 – What is the significance of an independent legal profession for the administration of justice?

*The integrity of any legal system relies heavily on the existence of an independent legal profession. This panel discussion delves into the critical question of why an independent legal profession is indispensable for the effective administration of justice.*

### Speakers:

- Director General for International Legal Cooperation and Human Rights, Spanish Ministry of Justice, David Vilas
- European Commissioner for Justice, Didier Reynders
- Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, Michael O’Flaherty

**Moderator:** Chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, Berit Reiss-Andersen

10.45 – 11.15

Coffee break

11.15 – 12.45

## Panel 2 – New technologies and core values: potential partners or an inevitable mismatch?

*This panel session will look at issues regarding the digitalisation of justice and the impact of new technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, on justice and legal practice.*

### Speakers:

- Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić
- Deputy Director General in DG JUST, Nils Behrndt
- CCBE Vice-President, Thierry Wickers

**Moderator:** CCBE Secretary-General, Simone Cuomo

14.15 – 15.45

**Panel 3 – Confidentiality of lawyer-client communications: is there a need for greater protection?**

*In an era marked by evolving legal landscapes, new legislation, and heightened concerns over privacy, the confidentiality of lawyer-client communications has become a topic of intense importance. This panel will consider whether current legal standards adequately safeguard this essential pillar of a lawyer-client relationship or if there is a pressing need for stronger protection.*

**Speakers:**

- President of the General Court of the European Union, Marc van der Woude
- Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Mattias Guyomar
- Former CCBE President, Margarete von Galen

**Moderator:** CCBE Vice-President, Pierre-Dominique Schupp

15.45 – 16.00

**Closing remarks**

- CCBE President, Panagiotis Perakis
- Chair of the European Parliament LIBE Committee, Juan Fernando López Aguilar