EUROPEAN LAWYERS
EUROPEAN BARS
CCBE
BARREAUX EUROPEENS
AVOCATS EUROPEENS

Le Président
The President

To : Madame Ursula Von der Leyen
Présidente
Commission européenne
B-28 Building
Rue Belliard, 28
1040 Bruxelles
ec.president.vdl@ec.europa.eu
cab-von-der-leyen-contact@ec.europa.eu

Cc: Ilze Juhansone

Secretariat-General European Commission Rue de la Loi 200/ Wetstraat 200
1049 Bruxelles

ilze.juhansone@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 23 October 2025

Subject: Follow-up and request for information on the ratification process of the Convention on the protection of the profession of lawyer

Madame President,

I am writing to you in my capacity as President of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which represents the bars and law societies of 46 countries, and through them more than one million European lawyers.

Further to the recent letter sent by the French and Belgian Bars to your attention, the CCBE wishes to reaffirm its strong commitment to the prompt signing and ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer—an essential instrument for guaranteeing the rule of law, as well as the independence and security of the legal profession across Europe.

The CCBE acknowledges the position of the European Commission in this matter and the progress made so far. We note with interest that the Commission considers that, in view of the particular procedural circumstances of this file, Member States may proceed with the signature of the Convention prior to the Union's signature, as some have already done, and that they may also initiate their domestic ratification procedures. However, we understand that the deposit of national instruments of ratification remains conditional upon the Council's adoption of a decision concluding the agreement on behalf of the Union.

The CCBE expresses its appreciation for having been informed by the Commission that preparations are underway for proposals for the necessary Council Decisions permitting the adoption of the Convention at EU level.

Furthermore, the CCBE welcomes the assurances given at the extraordinary meeting of the DROI and JURI committees of 20 October 2025, during which the Commission expressly confirmed that advancing the adoption of this Convention remains a priority.

In this perspective, the CCBE respectfully urges the European Commission to accelerate the completion of these proposals so that the Council and Member States can proceed to ratification without unnecessary delay. The protracted uncertainty affecting this process risks undermining protection for

lawyers against threats, intimidation, and undue interference—protection that the Convention is designed to entrench and reinforce.

To ensure clarity regarding any remaining impediments, the CCBE would be grateful if the Commission could share any detailed information concerning the difficulties or challenges currently envisaged, according to its latest assessment.

The CCBE reiterates its readiness to provide all necessary support to facilitate this important undertaking and looks forward to a positive and rapid outcome.

Please accept, Madam President, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Thierry Wickers
President