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PRESS RELEASE

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Setting up an independent bar in the Ukraine: CCBE recommendations

Through its members – the Bars and Law Societies of the European Union and the European Economic Area – the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) represents more than 700,000 European lawyers.

As a follow-up to the CCBE Ukraine roundtable on the law on the Bar, which took place on 26 September 2008 in Kiev, CCBE experts published today their conclusions of the roundtable and recommendations to the Ukrainian profession. The recommendations relate to issues such as the structure of a Bar Association, the employment of lawyers and the merger of professions.

The CCBE President, Péter Köves, said today: *“The CCBE has been and remains concerned that there is still no legal framework for a proper independent and self-regulated Bar Association in Ukraine. We are keen to support the continuing efforts to resolve this issue. We hope that the experts’ recommendations will help the Ukraine legal profession in coming to a solution on the issues which have been so controversial in the past.”*

The experts’ conclusions and recommendations are the outcome of the roundtable and aim to provide further assistance to the Ukrainian profession in their efforts to establish a unified professional Bar Association. The experts recommend inter alia that the new Ukrainian Bar structure should comprise regional Bar associations as well as one national Bar association and that there should be one legal profession, with set rules, code of ethics and under the roof of a Bar Association in line with the motto ‘United we stand, divided we fall’.

The full conclusions and recommendations can be downloaded [here](#).

Background

The CCBE has followed with keen interest the efforts in recent years to create a unified professional Bar Association in Ukraine in compliance with the commitment which was made when Ukraine joined the Council of Europe in 1996. At the time the then President and Prime Minister of Ukraine stated that *“the status of the legal profession will be protected and a professional bar association will be established”* (July 1995). Since then various unsuccessful attempts have been made to introduce a law to establish a unified Bar association in Ukraine.

The CCBE organised, together with the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice and the Ukrainian Parliamentary Committee on Legal Policy and with the sponsorship of the *Erste Bank*, a very successful roundtable on 26 September 2008 which brought together all the relevant stakeholders including the Ministry of Justice, Parliament and the various Ukrainian professional organisations and associations in order to discuss issues related to the law on the Bar which have been controversial amongst stakeholders. The Minister of Justice of Ukraine, Mykola V. Onischuk, and MP Yuriy Miroshnichenko, Deputy Head of the Parliament Committee on Legal Policy and drafter of the law on the Bar, both participated in the conference and reported about the latest state of play of discussions within the Ministry and Parliament respectively.

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