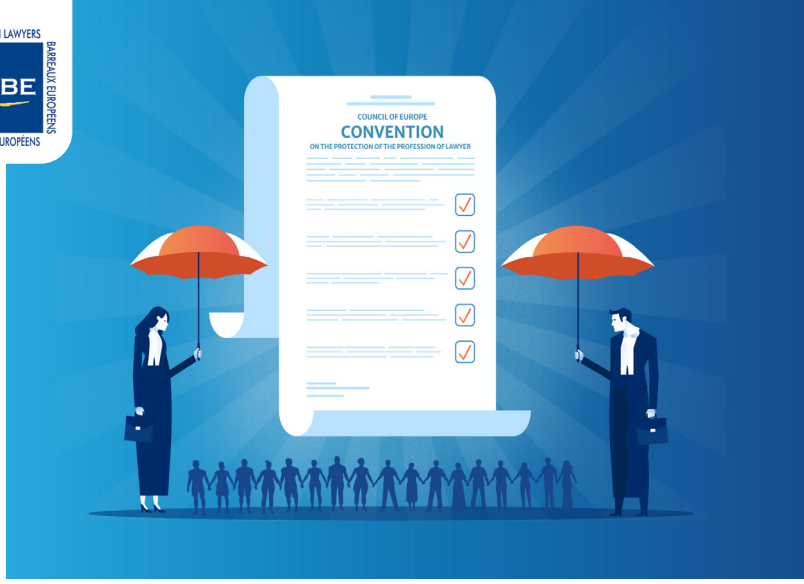
Press Release

Protecting lawyers to protect justice

The "Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer" – one year on.



On the first anniversary of the opening for signature of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer (Luxembourg, 13 May 2025), the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) highlights the progress achieved and underlines the need to turn this commitment into effective protection, at a time when the independence and safety of lawyers remain under pressure throughout Europe and beyond.

The Convention represents a strong step forward in strengthening the protection of the legal profession across Europe. For the first time, it provides a binding international framework designed to safeguard lawyers' independence, safety, and professional role. It enables lawyers to perform their duties without fear of attack or harassment, and it is supported by a dedicated monitoring mechanism to ensure effective implementation.

From signature to larger commitment

29 States have already signed the Convention

Signatory States

States not yet signatories

One year on, 29 States have signed the Convention, demonstrating a shared recognition that the protection of lawyers is essential to the rule of law and to safeguarding the independence, safety, and integrity of the legal profession. This participation reflects the growing awareness that lawyers must be able to carry out their professional duties freely and independently.

While this progress is remarkable, the Convention can only achieve its full purpose through the largest possible participation. One year after its opening for signature, it remains crucial that all Council of Europe Member States commit to this instrument. The CCBE encourages the remaining States to sign the Convention, ensuring a common and consistent framework for the protection of lawyers throughout Europe and beyond.

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The need for swift ratification and EU engagement

Signature alone is not enough. For the Convention to have a real impact, it must be followed by ratification, allowing its guarantees to take effect in practice. Ratification enables the Convention to provide concrete protection where lawyers are exposed to threats, harassment, or undue interference. The CCBE will continue to advocate for the widest possible ratification.

The CCBE also invites the European Union to join and support the Convention. Such engagement would reinforce coherence within the European legal framework and send a clear political signal that the protection of lawyers is a strong part of the defence of the rule of law.

As CCBE President, Roman Završek, stated:

"One year on, the message is clear: 29 States have signed this Convention, sending a strong and encouraging signal. It is a step towards a Europe where lawyers can serve freely, where citizens can be defended fully, and where the rule of law is not just proclaimed, but lived".

The way forward

The CCBE will continue to promote the Convention and support its signature and ratification, reaffirming its commitment to defending the independence of the legal profession, the rule of law, and the rights of citizens.

About the CCBE | ccbe.eu

The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) represents the Bars and Law Societies of 46 countries, and through them more than 1 million European lawyers. Founded in 1960, the CCBE is recognised as the voice of the European legal profession by the European institutions, as well as leading international organisations.

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