

**United Kingdom Delegation to the CCBE:**  
**Declaration on Legal Services Provisions**  
**in the Future Partnership Agreement between the EU and the UK**

The UK Delegation to the CCBE

- Believes that the defence of the rule of law, human rights and democratic values are the core functions of the European legal profession.
- Believes that citizens and businesses of the current EU28, who are the clients of lawyers in each of those countries, should not be put at a disadvantage as regards access to justice and the legal services as a result of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union.
- Notes that the EU legal services *acquis* has provided valuable protections and benefits for clients in the EU27 and the UK, facilitating the exercise of rights conferred by EU law, and providing important safeguards to individuals and businesses in the context of judicial cooperation between their respective national jurisdictions.
- Stresses, therefore, the importance of ensuring that, regardless of various scenarios that might arise or that may be the subject of current negotiations, no harm comes to these same individuals and businesses. We consider this would be best achieved by replicating the current arrangements on civil justice cooperation which provide essential procedural rights guarantees to citizens of the EU27 and the UK
- Emphasises, therefore, the importance of a comprehensive agreement on justice matters and legal practice to prevent any diminution of the rights of UK and EU citizens. Familial and commercial relationships depend upon mutual recognition and the enforcement of agreements at this level. We are concerned that the UK and other countries would not be able to remedy the disruption caused by a lack of collective agreement through the conclusion of bilateral agreements.
- Welcomes the commitment to avoiding a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The smooth reciprocal provision of legal services is an integral part of the close integration within communities and must continue to underpin these relationships. This necessity further supports the wider logic of a comprehensive agreement guaranteeing mutual access to legal services for citizens in the UK and EU27.
- Notes that the European Commission and the UK Government have stated publicly their desire to continue to recognise each other's qualifications after the UK's withdrawal and to negotiate ambitious provisions on the rights of natural persons to live and work abroad.
- Believes that putting up barriers to lawyers providing services efficiently and speedily to their clients will undermine Europe's reputation for quality and professionalism in law around the world.

- Calls on the European Commission and Parliament and the UK Government to ensure that it is a key priority in the negotiations for the future relationship between the EU and the UK to replicate as closely as possible the provisions of the EU *acquis* applicable to legal service provision so that EU and UK lawyers can continue to provide temporary services, and maintain rights of establishment and the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications on the basis of complete reciprocity after the UK leaves the EU.

- Welcomes the desire expressed in the UK Government's White Paper on the Future Relationship of 12 July 2018 (notably at paras 47-57) to reach an agreement on services, including legal services, that goes well beyond what is contained in the free trade agreements the EU has signed to date. To that end, the UK Delegation is committed to working towards retaining the current rights of access to EU lawyers to the UK legal services market on the basis of reciprocity.