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PRESS RELEASE

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CCBE adopts recommendation on training outcomes for European lawyers

The knowledge, skills and competences to be expected of newly-qualified lawyers are set out in a recommendation on training outcomes adopted by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), representing over 700,000 lawyers from the European Union and European Economic Area through their member Bars and Law Societies, at its Plenary Session on 23 November in Bruges.

The recommendation, which takes account of the ongoing construction of the European Qualification Framework and the development of a Higher Education Area in Europe, proposes training outcomes in three sections: who lawyers are, what lawyers do and how lawyers work. The first section deals with knowledge relating to ethics and professional rules. Their function is to make future lawyers aware of their professional identity, and of the role of the profession within the administration of justice and in society at large. The second section describes, in general terms, the theoretical and practical knowledge that lawyers should have in order successfully to perform their functions. The third sets out the skills and competences that are related to the organisation of the activities of lawyers.

CCBE President, Colin Tyre QC, said today: "This training recommendation follows in the CCBE's long tradition of own-initiative work aimed at facilitating the free movement of lawyers across Europe. I am delighted to have achieved a consensus among our member delegations as to the outcomes which the process of training lawyers should achieve. It is, of course, for our member Bars to decide individually how best to achieve these outcomes. But I believe that agreement on what has to be achieved during professional training is a significant step towards ensuring public confidence in the quality of legal services throughout Europe."

The CCBE recommendation is available at the following website address: http://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/NTCdocument/EN_Training_Outcomes1_1196675213.pdf

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