ERA

EUROPEAN FORUM OF THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS

Annual Conference of the
European Forum of the Legal Professions

Protecting Legal Professionals and Safeguarding Justice Systems

Integrity, Cybersecurity, and Personal Protection

Brussels & Online, 16 November 2026
(9:15-17:00 CET)

ABOUT THE STAKEHOLDERS:

The **European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ)** unites the national institutions in the Member States of the European Union which are independent of the executive and legislature, and which are responsible for the support of the Judiciaries in the independent delivery of justice.

The **Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)**, founded in 1960, is an international non-profit association which has been, since its creation, at the forefront of advancing the views of European lawyers and defending the legal principles upon which democracy and the rule of law are based.

The **European Association of Judges (EAJ)** is one of the four regional groups of the International Association of Judges. It is a professional, non-political, international organisation, bringing together national associations of judges, not individual judges, approved by the Central Council for admission to the Association.

The **Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ)** is an organisation founded in the year 2000. Its membership comprises national associations, representing administrative judges from Member States of the European Union and the Council of Europe and individual members, being administrative judges from those countries in which such associations do not exist.

ACA-Europe is a European association composed of the Court of Justice of the European Union as well as the Councils of State and the supreme administrative jurisdictions of each of the members of the European Union.

The **Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the Member States** was formed in 2004. It provides a forum through which European institutions are given an opportunity to request the opinions of Supreme Courts and to bring them closer by encouraging discussion and the exchange of ideas.

The **European Union of Judicial Officers (UEHJ)** is an international association created in 2016 in close coordination with the International Union of Judicial Officers. UEHJ aims to represent, promote and ensure the interests of the judicial officers within the (candidate) member states of the European Union. The association includes 22 member and 2 observer member countries.

The **European Union of Rechtspfleger (EUR)** is an association of 14 professional organisations from 13 states of the European Union. The objective is to improve the effectiveness and proximity of justice and to harmonise legal systems. For this purpose, the EUR has developed a model of a European profession, which is based on the professions of Rechtspfleger that were originally created in Germany and Austria.

The **Council of Notariats of the European Union (CNUE)** is the official body representing the notarial profession in dealings with the European institutions. The CNUE brings together the notariats of the 22 Member States familiar with this institution. The CNUE represents more than 50,000 notaries and 200,000 staff.

The **NADAL Network** brings together the Public Prosecutors General or equivalent institutions operating at the supreme judicial courts of the Member States of the European Union. Its aim is to foster the exchange of ideas and experiences among the highest representatives of European prosecution services, focusing on the role, organisation, and functioning of these prosecution offices.

CONTENT

The 5th annual conference organised by ERA under the auspices of the European Forum of the Legal Professions, an inter-professional platform for structured dialogue among the representatives of legal professions in Europe. Here, common challenges and concerns can be addressed and joint positions formulated. Hosted by the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) in Brussels on 16 November 2026, the event brings together leading representatives of European legal and judicial organisations to address the growing threats facing legal professionals and the justice systems they uphold.

Against a backdrop of declining respect for the rule of law, rising digital risks, and increasing pressure on the independence of the judiciary, the conference will examine three interconnected challenges: the physical and personal protection of judges, lawyers, and other justice professionals; cybersecurity and data protection within justice systems; and the integrity of European justice institutions in the face of political pressure, corruption, and public trust deficits.

Through a keynote address, scene-setting presentations, and three dedicated roundtables, participants will explore topics including the Luxembourg Convention, harassment of justice professionals, digital sovereignty, the use of AI in justice, judicial appointment procedures, and the threat of infiltration by criminal organisations. The event aims to foster cross-professional dialogue and identify best practices that can strengthen the resilience and independence of justice systems across Europe.

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EUROPEAN FORUM OF THE LEGAL PROFESSIONS

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Programme

Monday, 16 November 2026

08:45 Registration

Live Stream

09:15 **Welcoming words**

Jean-Philippe Rageade, Director of ERA

Annerie Ploumen, Chair of the Royal Dutch Notarial Association, Vice President of CNUE

09:30 **Keynote**

The decreasing respect for authority and law

Bruno Gencarelli, Principal Adviser for Strategies for the Development of Justice Policies, European Commission

10:00 **Setting the scene**

The integrity of justice

José Igreja Matos Judge of the Portuguese Supreme Court, President of CCJE

Cybersecurity risks for justice systems

Raluca Peica, Director-General for Information, Court of Justice of the European Union

Threats and intimidation – judges under pressure

Beti Hohler, Judge at the International Criminal Court

10:45 Discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Round Table: Personal safety of legal professionals**

Moderated by **Dorota Zabłudowska-Szulc,** Polish Judge, Vice President of IAJ

Brian O'Moore, judge of the Supreme Court of Ireland, President of ENCJ

Marc Schmitz, Belgian judicial officer, the President of UIHJ

Sander Janssen, Dutch defence lawyer

12:30 Lunch break

14:00 **Round Table: The integrity of the justice system**

Moderated by **Magdalena Arendt**, Vice-President of the Polish National Council of Notaries

Astrid Bode, German Judge, Member of the Presidium of the Deutscher Richterbund

Wolfgang Lämmer, Honorary President of E.U.R.

Manuel Soares, Justice of the Supreme Court of Justice of Portugal

Roman Završek, Slovenian lawyer, President of CCBE

15:15 Coffee break

15:45 **Round Table: Cybersecurity, data protection and AI**

Moderated by **Alex Tallon**, Belgian lawyer, Vice-President of CCBE

Magda Fasilaki, Associate Councillor of the Hellenic Council of State

Michal Novotny, Member of AEAJ's advisory group, judge of the Supreme Administrative Court of Slovakia

Aurélie Van der Perre, Head of Privanot and Co-Chair of the CNUE GDPR Working Group

16:45 **Closing remarks**

Vincent Tilman, CNUE

Viktor Vadász, Deputy Director and Director of Programmes of ERA

17:00 End of the Conference

Times indicated are CET (Central European Time)

PARTNERS

Who should attend	Judges, prosecutors, court staff, judicial officers, private lawyers, EU officials, journalists
Fee	Participation onsite: 150 EUR (incl. Catering) Participation online: 0 EUR
Venue	Council of the Notariats of the European Union Avenue de Cortenbergh, 120, 1000 Brussels
Language	English
Event Number	026D031
Hybrid format	Online participants can take the floor or address written questions to the panel through a live chat in Zoom. The link will be provided after registration.
Contact	 Viktor Vadász Deputy Director Director of Programmes E-Mail: vvadasz@era.int Julia Käfer Assistant E-Mail: jkaefer@era.int
Registration	https://era-int.zoom.us/meeting/register/N3W3-FGiTiKOOEFysmIPOg