



*Le Président*  
The President

Brussels, 08June 2006

Représentant les avocats d'Europe  
Representing Europe's lawyers

Ministerie van Justitie  
t.a.v. de heer mr. J.P.H. Donner  
Minister van Justitie  
Postbus 20301  
2500 EH DEN HAAG

By e-mail and post

**Concerning: CCBE comments on the report of the Committee Van Wijmen**

Dear Minister,

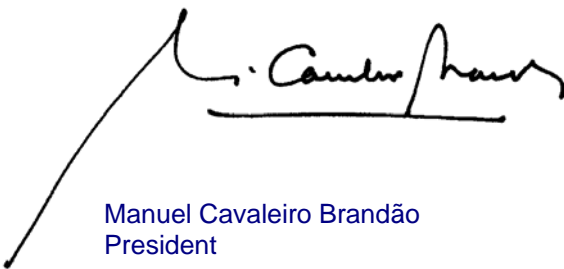
The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) through its member bars and law societies represents more than 700,000 European lawyers.

In such capacity, the CCBE wishes to comment, from a European perspective, on some of the recommendations made by the Committee Van Wijmen in its analysis of the role and position of the lawyer in relation to the rule of law, the administration of justice and the functioning of the Bar. You will find enclosed the CCBE comments.

The CCBE would like to underline the importance of the self-regulation of the legal profession which must be seen as a corollary to its independence as a cornerstone of a free and democratic society.

The views set out in the paper should help in the understanding of the functioning of the legal profession and the professional rules which apply to it.

Yours sincerely,



Manuel Cavaleiro Brandão  
President