



Luxembourg Bar Association

Report 2022

16-17-18 February 2023



51ST EUROPEAN
PRESIDENTS
CONFERENCE



Who we are

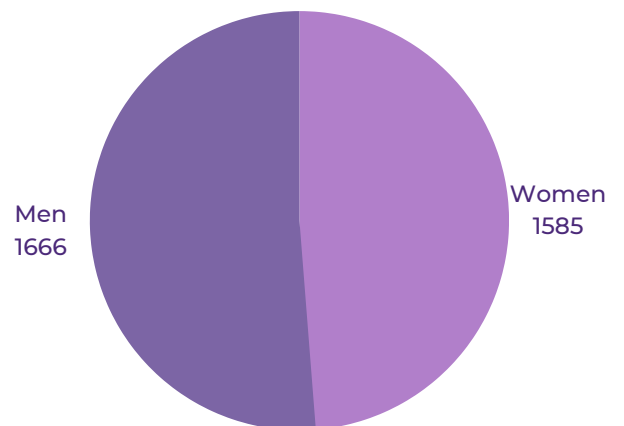


Pit Reckinger
President of the Bar

Albert Moro
Vice-President

Valérie Dupong
Outgoing President

3251
Lawyers



Short overview of important events in 2022

War in Ukraine

Immediately after the illegal aggression of Ukraine by Russia, the Luxembourg Bar Council took a resolution condemning the invasion and expressing its solidarity towards the people of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Bar, its lawyers, the judges and the Ukrainian legal community at large. In April 2022, the Bar Council met with the chair of the Bar of Odessa. Later in the month, the Bar's immigration and international protection commission organised a special conference on the administrative situation of persons having fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022.

The Luxembourg Bar continued to follow developments in Ukraine through IBA and CCBE and its special relationship with the Odessa Bar. The Chairman of the Luxembourg Bar and the Chairman of the immigration and international protection commission both participated in a conference organised in November 2022 by the National University of Odessa on the subject "Advocacy: the past, modernity and the future".

AML / CTF

The Luxembourg Bar continued as part of its supervisory duties to professionalise its AML/CTF and international sanctions' supervision.

Besides pursuing on-site inspections with local lawyers and law firms, the Bar increased off-site controls both, general controls for all lawyers and law firms but also subject to specific offsite controls (such as focusing on the financing of terrorism) as well specific targeted controls on lawyers/law firms exercising activities such as TCSP (trust and companies service providers or domiciliation services).

In September 2022 the Bar decided to invest into new IT systems and programs allowing it to manage automated off-site questionnaires to lawyers and law firms and to establish automated risk profiles both for the Luxembourg Bar in general and for each of its lawyers and law firms in particular.

On the EU front the Luxembourg Bar is deeply concerned by the new legislative proposals published by the European Commission in particular the proposed supervision of all self-regulated bodies by a public authority.

During 2022, Luxembourg Bar pursued its lobbying efforts at the level of the competent bodies participating in the EU legislative process but similarly maintained regular contacts with the European Commission. The Bar has drawn the attention of the Luxembourg Finance Ministry and of the permanent representation of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg with the European Union as well as of a number of members of the European Parliament and parliamentary rapporteurs, to the adverse consequences which the proposed legislation will have on the independence of the Bar as well as the adverse consequences of certain of its provisions on the professional secrecy to which each lawyer is bound and accordingly to the rule of law. The Bar has been proactive in suggesting amendments to the current drafts.

Brexit

Following Brexit and the loss of the possibility of British lawyers to be registered freely at the Luxembourg Bar, the Bar actively cooperated with the Ministry of Justice to amend the legislation in order to allow lawyers registered in the UK to be registered

on a specific section of the Luxembourg bar and advise in their local law and public international law as foreseen by the Brexit agreement. The bill of law creating such new section is currently continuing its legislative process.

Barreau social

During 2022, the Luxembourg Bar officially launched a unit in charge of providing assistance to lawyers in difficulty called "cellule écoute". The unit is composed of lawyers who have benefited from a specific training allowing them to intervene in all areas of difficulties including harassment, violence, discrimination, financial difficulties, psychological distress or any form of handicap.

The unit acts in full confidentiality and neutrality. It is financed through grants from the Bar council but also from individual lawyers and law firms.



Any questions ? Contact us.

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