

# REPORT

## European Presidents Conference

### Vienna 2021



ASSOCIATION EUROPÉENNE DES AVOCATS  
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS

The Association was established in 1986 to promote rule of law and core values of the European legal profession, to strengthen links between members and to share experience in professional matters. For 35 years we have gathered lawyers from Europe and beyond to enhance connections between our members, to promote the European concept of the legal profession, to exchange knowledge as well as to enjoy common social activities. Our members come from different continents and jurisdictions like: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States. AEA-EAL comprises three categories of members: full members, associate members and correspondent members. In addition, the General Assembly may award the title of honorary member. The AEA-EAL is governed by the Board of Directors chaired by its President.

## AEA-EAL

I have a pleasure to present this Report of the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL) prepared for the 49<sup>th</sup> European Presidents Conference in Vienna.

The AEA-EAL focuses on bringing together lawyers from various countries and legal cultures, fostering networking as well as focus on promoting the rule of law, European values of our profession as fully independent, self-governing and acting in the public interest.

One of our flagship initiatives is Twinning of Lawyers that gathers together colleagues from East and West, to learn from each other and to develop mutual relations in friendly, less formal atmosphere.

Maria Ślęzak, AEA-EAL President



### Promoting profession

for strengthening justice and the rule of law



### International cooperation

for exchanging knowledge and experiences



### Network of lawyers

for your daily professional work and social life



### Facilitating practice

for building competence and mutual respect



# WHAT WE DO?

## OUR ACTIVITIES

### RULE OF LAW ACTIONS

- Helping to build independent legal profession

Conference “Advocates 2018” for bars and lawyers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (2018)

- Building awareness of threats for rule of law and human rights in coronavirus pandemic time

Online conference on justice and human rights in the Covid-19 era (2020) in cooperation with the Al-Farabi Institute of Human Rights in Kazakhstan

Webinar on Access to Justice during Covid-19 pandemic

- Promoting independence, core values and need for convention on the legal profession

Modern Legal Profession Conference for Caucasus Bars (2018)

Twinning of Lawyers for colleagues from Eastern and Western Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (2019, 2020)

- Providing expertise and practical knowledge

Participation in works of the Council of Europe on the profession of a lawyer

Practical workshops for lawyers (2018, 2019, 2020)

- Other activities

Participation in Defense of Defenders Network

Statements and Petitions in defense of lawyers/ human rights defenders (2020 - Belarus, Turkey)

Initiative “Solidarity with Belorussian Lawyers” - sending postcards to imprisoned lawyers and solidarity banners on websites and in social media

### TWINNING OF LAWYERS

#### our flagship initiative

Once a year, lawyers from more than 15 jurisdictions, from East and West, gather in one of participating countries to meet each other in friendly, less formal atmosphere. The main rule is that lawyers from a hosting city welcome colleagues at their homes and take care of guests during long weekend. One day is devoted to a topic proposed by a hosting bar, while rest of time is filled up with networking, social activities and sightseeing of the region. This formula enhances mutual relations, cross-cultural understanding and networking between AEA-EAL members and friends. Even in the Covid-19 era, we have maintained this initiative, changing it temporarily into online event. One of results of this initiative is Memorandum of Understanding signed by Bars from Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia on standing co-operation, exchange of information and yearly meetings.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Conferences and seminars on various aspects of law
- Market Access Seminars - series of scientific events in cooperation with the University of Bern and World Trade Institute
- Practical workshops for young lawyers
- Social activities

Solidarity  
with persecuted  
Belorussian  
Lawyers!

