

NEWSLETTER

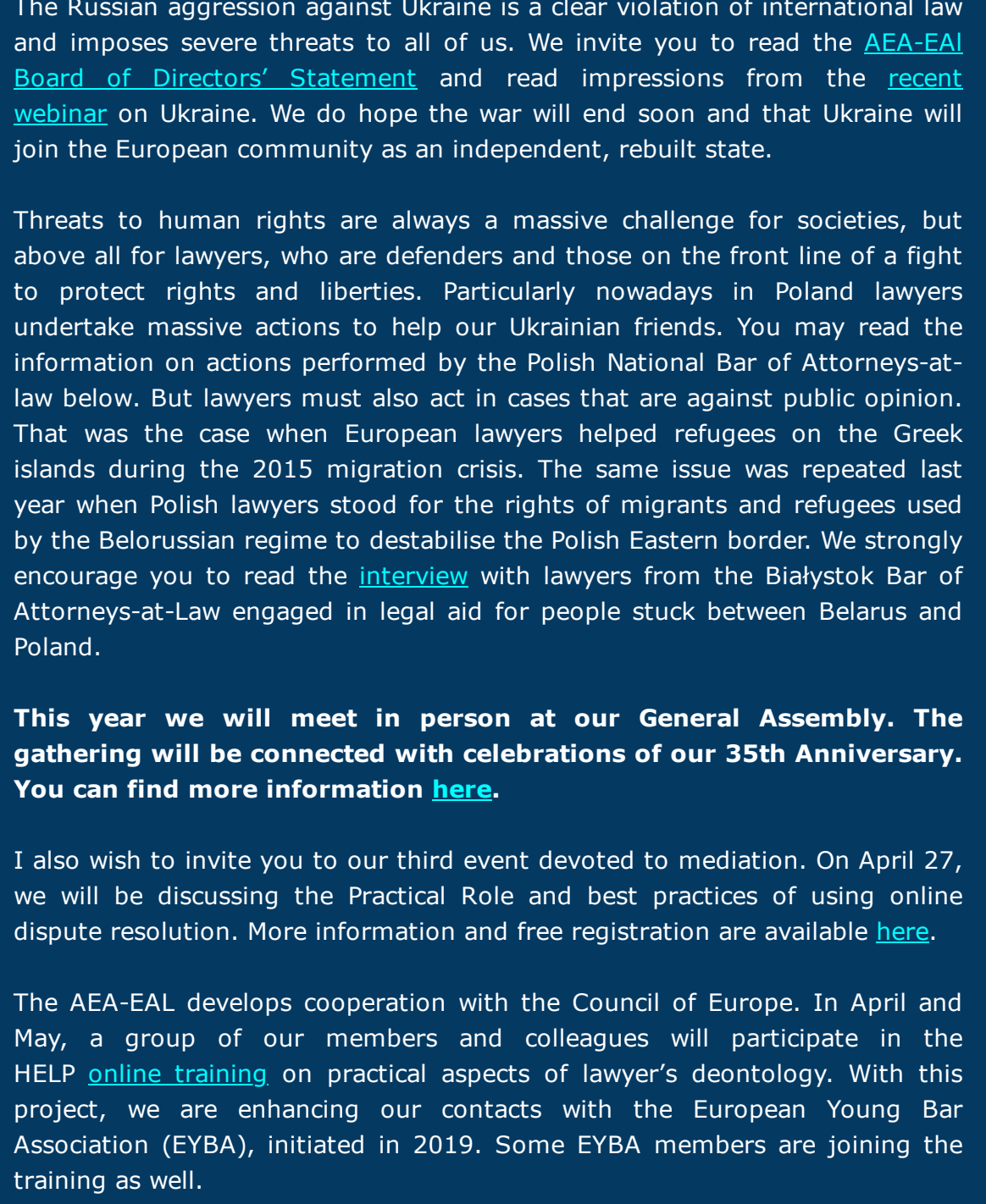


Association Européenne des Avocats
European Association of Lawyers

Spring 2022

15 May 2022 at 19:30 (CET) Gala Dinner
16 May 2022 at 12.00 (CET) General Assembly
Brussels/ hybrid

[click to register](#)



Foreword of President

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

With the coming Easter, I wish to pass my best wishes and all the best to you, your families and friends! I do hope you spend this time safe with your closest persons.

In coming days many of us are celebrating Easter. But this year, we face the biggest threat to democracy, security and international law in Europe since World War II.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine is a clear violation of international law and imposes severe threats to all of us. We invite you to read the [AEA-EAL Board of Directors' Statement](#) and read impressions from the [recent webinar](#) on Ukraine. We do hope the war will end soon and that Ukraine will join the European community as an independent, rebuilt state.

Threats to human rights are always a massive challenge for societies, but above all for lawyers, who are defenders and those on the front line of a fight to protect rights and liberties. Particularly nowadays in Poland lawyers undertake massive actions to help our Ukrainian friends. You may read the information on actions performed by the Polish National Bar of Attorneys-at-law below. But lawyers must also act in cases that are against public opinion. That was the case when European lawyers helped refugees on the Greek islands during the 2015 migration crisis. The same issue was repeated last year when Polish lawyers stood for the rights of migrants and refugees used by the Belorussian regime to destabilise the Polish Eastern border. We strongly encourage you to read the [interview](#) with lawyers from the Białystok Bar of Attorneys-at-Law engaged in legal aid for people stuck between Belarus and Poland.

This year we will meet in person at our General Assembly. The gathering will be connected with celebrations of our 35th Anniversary. You can find more information [here](#).

I also wish to invite you to our third event devoted to mediation. On April 27, we will be discussing the Practical Role and best practices of using online dispute resolution. More information and free registration are available [here](#).

The AEA-EAL develops cooperation with the Council of Europe. In April and May, a group of our members and colleagues will participate in the [HELP online training](#) on practical aspects of lawyer's deontology. With this project, we are enhancing our contacts with the European Young Bar Association (EYBA), initiated in 2019. Some EYBA members are joining the training as well.

Statement of the AEA-EAL Board of Directors on Russian aggression against Ukraine

On behalf of the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL), we strongly condemn the aggression of the Russian Federation toward the Republic of Ukraine. The aggression initiated by President Putin is an attack on fundamental principles of democracy, human rights, and international order in Europe. This act of war is a clear violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, OSCE Charter for European Security, and the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances. Universally recognised law clearly prohibits the use of force or threat of its use in international relations except for self-defence or acting based on the resolution of the UN Security Council. Both exceptions are not applicable in this context. We express our solidarity with the Nation of Ukraine and appeal to the authorities of all states to undertake steps to ensure full support for victims of war. We call our Members and Friends to engage in any possible help for citizens of Ukraine, including pro bono legal aid and assistance.

Lawyers for Ukraine

Lawyers for Ukraine
+48 800 088 544

- Legal Aid office
- Questions and answers
- Useful documents
- Useful links

The **Center for Coordination of Legal Aid** was established to provide pro bono legal aid to people affected by the war in Ukraine. We operate through a nationwide call center and through legal information points located throughout the country. Assistance in solving legal problems is provided by volunteer experts: attorneys-at-law, advocates and representatives of all legal professions and associations as well as NGO lawyers. As part of the Center, the National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-law coordinates cooperation between 19 regional bars association of attorneys-at-law and other legal associations. Lawyers work together to help those affected by the war in Ukraine. Thanks to the initiative of the National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-law, the largest coalition of legal associations supporting people in need who came to Poland after the outbreak of war was created.

Works of the **Center for Coordination of Legal Aid** are coordinated by attorney-at-law **Magdalena Bartosiewicz**, member of the Commission for Foreign Affairs and Human Rights at the Warsaw Bar of the Attorneys-at-Law.

[read more...](#)

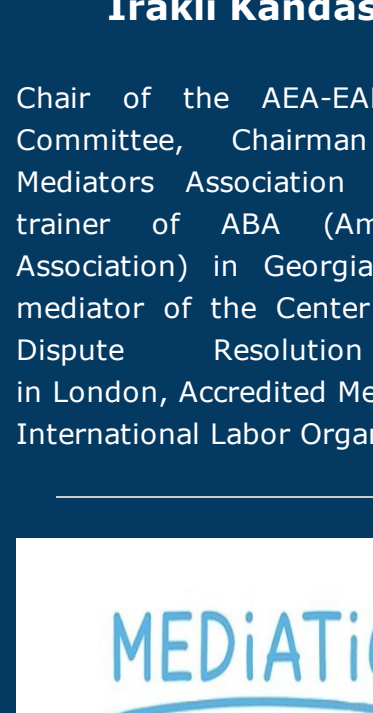
Lawyers: Defenders of human rights



photo source: [theguardian.com](#)

In December 2021 the Polish National Bar of Association of Attorneys-at-law opened a Legal Aid Coordination Center in Hajnówka near the Polish-Belarusian border. The attorneys-at-law forming it provided legal assistance 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Assistance was provided in pushback cases, international protection cases, as well as in family and criminal cases. The attorneys-at-law acted in cooperation with local authorities, the Police, the Border Guards, NGOs and every institution that provided assistance in this area. Legal aid was provided to all persons affected by the crisis on the Polish-Belarusian border. Not only foreigners staying in the Border Guard camps, but also residents of the border zone or representatives of non-governmental organizations could apply for help.

Front line lawyers: interview



Janusz Trochimiak
Attorney-at-law

1. Why did you get involved in helping people in the border area with Belarus?

We simply did not consider any other possibility. Protecting human rights is the essence of our craft, and it applies equally to a resident of the border town of Grodek as it does to a foreigner crossing the border illegally. To a certain extent, this decision was also influenced by the specifics of my practice, which is primarily concentrated in good areas (and this translated into a pretty good grasp of the situation - significantly different from that apparent from the limited media coverage). We was also fortunate to meet people very involved in the work of the Border Group quite early on.



Jakub Ławniczak
Attorney-at-law

2. What does this assistance consist of?

The assistance has proved to be multi-faceted. Contrary to popular belief, it does not consist of wandering through the forest searching for people who are then handed power of attorney to represent them before the competent authorities. We are taking a very subjective approach to people caught up in the current border crisis. And it has to be said that they often did not want to be assisted. Therefore, these are activities in direct contact with foreigners, such as explaining: procedures, legal situation, possible courses of action. But representation in cases with direct contact is significantly more complex (also due to the epidemic) before the Border Guard, the Office for Foreigners, and the Courts. Finally, it also included applying to the European Court of Human Rights with complaints and requests for interim measures.

[read more...](#)

Events

Practical Role and best practices of using online dispute resolution

27 April 2022



We cordially invite you to our third event devoted to alternative dispute resolution issues. The webinar on the practical use of electronic tools for ADR and procedures conducted entirely online are the subject of the event that is organized by the **AEA-EAL** in partnership with the **Łódź Bar of Attorneys-at-Law**.

When?

- 27 April 2022 at 12.00 (CET)

Where?

- **Online** event on Zoom

Who should participate?

- Lawyers, mediators, specialists, and people interested in the specificity of online conflict solving

How much does it cost?

- The webinar is free of charge.

Topic

- **Practical role and best practices of use of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)**

Program/ Agenda

- 12:00 - 12:10 Opening remarks: Prof. Irakli Kandashvili
- 12:10 - 12:25 Experiences on use of the ODR in Ukraine: Luiza Romanadze, Svetlana Sergejeva
- 12:25 - 12:30 Q&A
- 12:30 - 12:45 ODR in Spain: Carmen Pérez Andújar
- 12:45 - 12:50 Q&A
- 12:50 - 13:05 Polish perspectives of the ODR: Barbara Pawlak
- 13:05 - 13:10 Q&A
- 13:10 - 13:25 UK, ODR and current challenges: Iain Mitchell QC
- 13:25 - 13:30 - Q&A
- 13:30 - 13:40 - Summary of the webinar: Prof. Irakli Kandashvili

Our Speakers



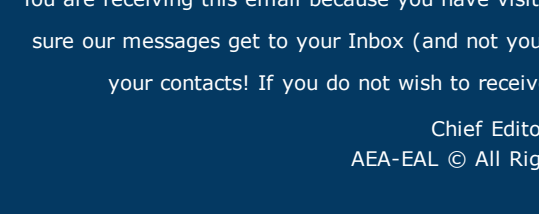
Professor
Irakli Kandashvili



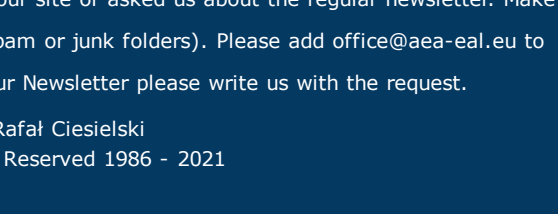
Svetlana
Sergejeva

Chair of the AEA-EAL Accredited Mediation Committee, Chairman of LEPL Mediators Association of Georgia, trainer of ABA (American Bar Association) in Georgia, Accredited Mediator of the Center of Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) in London, Accredited Mediator of the International Labor Organization.

Vice-President of the Ukrainian Academy of Mediation; Deputy Chairman of the Mediation Committee of the Odesa Oblast Bar Council; Member of the Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration and the German Maritime Arbitration Association; Member of the National Association of Mediators of Ukraine.



Ph. D. Barbara
Pawlak



Carmen
Pérez Andújar

Certified mediator and mediator with RISC mediator accreditation, permanent mediator of the Arbitration Court at the Polish Financial Supervision Authority, District Court in Łódź and Mediation Centre at the Supreme Bar Council. University lecturer and business trainer (BTC). Visiting scholar at KU Leuven.

Partner responsible for the department of ITER Law & Partners. Specialist in litigation, mediation and arbitration. Deputy Secretary of Media materials and technology of the Consejo General de la Abogacía Española. Member of the committees of foreign affairs and of alternative dispute resolutions of the Consejo. Leuven.

Luiza
Romanadze

Iain
Mitchell QC

Vice-President of the Ukrainian Academy of Mediation, Lawyer, Mediator, Chairman of the National Project Committee of the Association of Mediators of Ukraine, Head of the Department of Law of the Odessa National University of Economics, Associate Professor of intellectual property law and corporate law.

Accredited mediator by the Mediation Bureau (Scotland) and by Mediation Forum (Ireland), a member of the Scottish Council for International Arbitration, experienced litigator within Business and Banking law, European Law, Public Procurement of Law, Employment Law and Public Law.

Practical HELP course for AEA-EAL members

<http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int>

In April and May, a group of our members and colleagues will participate in the HELP online training on practical aspects of lawyer's deontology. With this project, we are enhancing our contacts with the European Young Bar Association (EYBA), initiated in 2019. Some EYBA members are joining the training as well.

[read more...](#)

Past events

Webinar on Ukraine

Nielson
Sanchez Stewart
initiator of the webinar

It was a special event organised by the European Association of Lawyers in the context of the ongoing war against Ukraine. AEA-EAL President Maria Ślaziak greeted all participants and, in her welcoming remarks, noted that the war against Ukraine is an unprecedented situation since World War II, imposing serious threats to the human rights, peace and stability in Europe.

[Read more...](#)

Women on Women

"Women on Women" online mini-conference to celebrate International Women's Day

The Opole Bar of Attorneys-at-Law, the Gdańsk Bar of Attorneys-at-Law and the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL) organised a joint event on the international women's day on 8 March 2022. With top speakers, we discussed legal, social and even psychological aspects of personal development, equality and the social role of women.

[Read more here](#)