



Foreword of the President

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

It is a great honor to address you as the newly elected President of the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL). As we embark on this new chapter together, I am deeply aware of the responsibility this role brings and am hopeful for the promising future of our organization.

Firstly, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Immediate Past President, Mrs. Maria Słazak, and the board members for their unwavering trust and efforts, which have greatly contributed to the professional advancement of lawyers worldwide. Your dedication and hard work have laid a strong foundation for continued success of the organization. Your confidence in my ability to lead the association is deeply humbling, and I am committed to working diligently to uphold the values and principles that have long defined the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL).

Our profession is facing unprecedented challenges and opportunities in an ever-evolving legal landscape. The rapid advancement of technology, the growing violations of international law, the rise of populist politicians who are trying to undermine the rule of law and individual human rights, and the pressing need for improved access to justice are just some of the challenges that require our focus. Together, we must steer through these changes, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of legal excellence and advocacy.

In the coming months, our focus will be on several key initiatives:

Enhancing Professional Development of Lawyers; particularly in emerging and transition economies; our initiative aims to enhance the independence of lawyers and bolster their role within the judiciary system.

Promoting Ethical Standards; Upholding the highest ethical standards and enhancing professional confidentiality is crucial. We will work to reinforce the integrity and accountability that underpin our profession, safeguarding clients' trust and upholding the principles of justice and fairness.

Fostering Collaboration; Strengthening our ties with national and international legal organizations will be a priority. We aim to create a more unified and influential voice for the legal community in Europe, alongside local bars in Europe and regions like Asia and Latin America on a global scale.

Advancing Access to Justice; We are committed to advocating for policies that ensure individuals have equitable access to qualified legal representation and justice.

As we move forward, I encourage each of you to actively participate in the initiatives and activities of our association. Your insights, expertise, and dedication are vital to the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL) as a vibrant and impactful community.

I am excited about the journey ahead and confident that together, we can accomplish remarkable achievements. Let us seize this moment to build a stronger, more resilient, and more inclusive legal profession that prioritizes human rights.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Warm regards,
David Asatiani
President



Farewell - Maria Słazak

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends,

This year marked the end of my last term as president of AEA-EAL. I would like to address a few words to you as a summary of my presidency and express my gratitude to those with whom I had the opportunity to work.

The period during which I had the honor of serving as the President of AEA-EAL was time of many challenges for the legal profession, both in terms of the development of new technologies as well as many threats to the rule of law or human rights. It was also a period of COVID-19 pandemic and the outbreak of war in Ukraine.

We organized many conferences and webinars dedicated to current issues of this period. Some of them exclusively by AEA-EAL, some in cooperation with our collective members, some in cooperation with other professional organizations, e.g. International Bar Association (IBA) or institutions like Council of Europe or EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). We also conducted a number of other activities, such as the Mentoring Program and training, especially in cooperation with HELP program of the Council of Europe. We prepared Guidelines for Mediators which are published on our website. We have been invited by Council of Europe to very prestigious circle of professional organizations which since three years have been working on the text of the Convention on Protection of Lawyers.

In particular, I am pleased with the development of the idea of Twinning of Lawyers, which supports the cooperation of professionals from various jurisdictions. We opened the door of the Association to lawyers from all over the world to promote values of our profession among colleagues from countries where democracy is still at the early stages of development. Many members originate from four continents. At the events we always assured high geographical diversity of speakers and participants.

Many new members joined the Association, including collective members who are national and regional bars in Europe and outside. One of the first collective members was Georgian Bar Association (GBA). The former President of GBA, Zaza Khatashvili, who fought for independence of the profession in Georgia, understood that strict cooperation with AEA-EAL might be helpful for Georgian lawyers to achieve the position of the leader of the Georgian Bar Association. Many Georgian colleagues became our members and some of them board members. As a result, current President of the Georgian Bar David Asatiani was recently elected as the President of AEA-EAL. I wish David very successful time with us, seeing his achievements within GBA. I am sure that under David's leadership AEA-EAL will further develop very smoothly and will achieve its goals.

It is worth to note that during my term new committees were established – the Networking Committee, the Marketing Committee, the Human Rights Committee, the Scientific Committee, the Penitology Committee, the Mediation Committee, the New Technologies Committee and the Sustainable Development Law Committee. I would like to thank chairs of these committees: Juan Nunez, Christoph von Wiltken, Philipp Zurkinden, Nielson Sánchez-Stewart, Konrad Meinast who kindly participates in our meetings and supports us in all undertakings. His experience, knowledge and memory are priceless. Let me also thank to the Board Member Vladimir Palamarciuc who initiated and continues the Mentoring Program as well as webinars with HELP Program to train our members in various professional fields.

We signed some Memorandums of Understanding with such institutions as University of Marie Curie-Skłodowska in Lublin, with the Association of Lawyers in California, with the Bar in Singapore and Law Society of Hongkong, International Association of Young Lawyers (AIYA), and above all one Agreement on Cooperation with Bars in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Odessa (Ukraine), Gdansk (Poland) creating Working Groups of Lawyers (kraje). Such agreements are very good platforms for common undertakings. Our examples are: (i) very successful conference in Almaty (Kazakhstan) - we financed participation of 45 lawyers from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, (ii) conference with University in Lublin - we assured 20 speakers from various continents, (iii) regular cooperation with Hongkong Law Society, also within our committees, (iv) further concrete proposals of cooperation from Singapore Bar and Association of Lawyers in California, (v) cooperation of Council of Europe on creation of the Bar in Turkmenistan.

Thanks to all the Members of the Board of Directors for their commitment to the Association, and especially the Secretary General, Aleksandra Siewicka-Marszałek and the Treasurers Sabine Perquy-Förke and Olivier d'Ursel for their everyday assistance.

I would also like to express my gratitude to members of a board who passed away in my term of office: Andrzej Kalinski, Kurt Weil and finally Jean-Pierre von Kistner - one of the founders of our Association. We will always have them in our memories!

As Immediate Past President I promise to continue work for AEA-EAL and assist when needed.

Warm regards,
Maria Słazak
Immediate Past President

AEA-EAL New President elected – David Asatiani from Georgia

We are very glad to present the new President of our Association, Mr. David Asatiani. David Asatiani was elected as the President of the European Association of Lawyers on June 13, 2024. Previously, he served as Vice-President of the Association from 2021 to 2024.

David Asatiani is also in his second term as the President of the Georgian Bar Association (GBA), having been re-elected during the General Assembly's annual meeting in 2021. He has been a member of the GBA since its foundation in 2005. He was a member of the Executive Board of the GBA in 2006-2010 and 2013-2017. At the same time, he served as International Secretary of the GBA. In 2008-2017 he was a representative of the GBA to the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CBE). As for 2010-2017, he was a Chairman of the Working Groups of Judges, Lawyers and Prosecutors.

David Asatiani founded the law firm Asatiani Law Partners in 2005 and is still its founding partner. In 1998-2005 he was a senior lawyer at various law firms and in 2012 he became a CEDR accredited mediator.

As a member of the Constitutional Commission, in 2017, David Asatiani was actively involved in the process of drafting a new Constitution of Georgia. He has been a member and Chairman of the Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary. In 2009-2013 he was the founder and chairman of the NGO Georgian Lawyers for Independent Profession (GLIP).

In 1997 David Asatiani graduated from Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, Faculty of International Law and International Relations, specializing in International Law; he completed his postgraduate studies at Turin State University in 2001 and back in 1995 he also graduated from the Tbilisi Institute of Law and Economics. He has received extensive professional experience in organization and functioning of the justice system and legal profession in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, etc.

David Asatiani is proficient in Georgian, Russian and English.

AEA-EAL New Vice-Presidents and Members of the Board

Nielson Sánchez-Stewart (from Spain) – new AEA-EAL Vice-President. Advocate, Doctor Iuris. Since 1977 Senior Partner of Nielson-Sánchez-Stewart Abogados, with offices in Madrid (1979), Bar Association of Madrid (1983), Member of the Bar Associations of Chile, Málaga, Barcelona, Vic and Lucena (Spain). Past President of the Bar Association of Málaga (2003-2006). Professor of Ethics at the School of Legal Practice of the Bar Association of Málaga, Universidad de Málaga and Universidad Francisco de Vitoria.

Michel Forges (from Belgium) – new AEA-EAL Vice-President. Advocate. Founder of Faber Inter Legal. Member of the Brussels Bar since 1982. President of the Brussels Bar (Ordre Français du Barreau de Bruxelles) in 2018. Certified mediator.

Jean-Louis Collart (from Switzerland) – new AEA-EAL Member of the Board of Directors, Attorney-at-Law, Founding Partner of ATHENA Advocates – Attorneys-at-Law, Member of Geneva Bar Association (OAA) and Swiss Bar Association (SAB/FSA), Past Chairman of the Geneva Bar Supervisory Board.

Salvador Gonzalez is the new President of the General Council of Spanish Lawyers (CGAE)

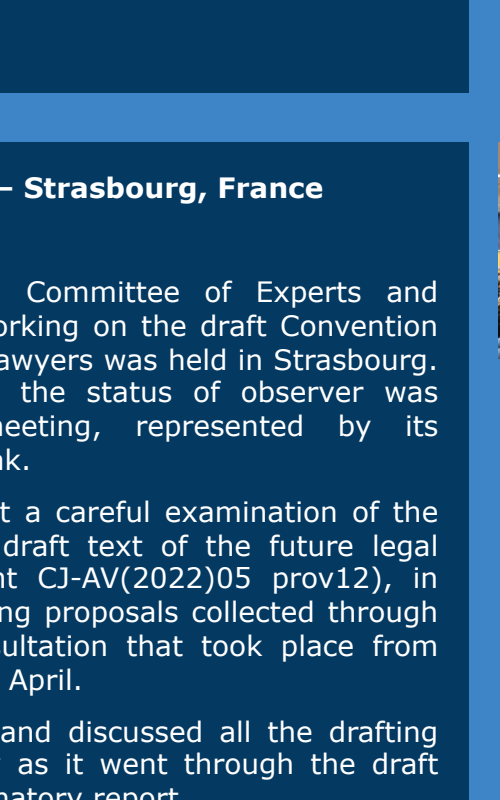
Salvador González, Dean-President of the Málaga Bar Association (a collective member of our Association), has been elected to be the President of the CGAE, also a collective member, for a term of four years.

This position entails a series of responsibilities and challenges that directly impact the lives of thousands of lawyers, and the administration of justice in our country. As the highest representative of the General Council of Spanish Lawyers, the president becomes the voice of 242,000 registered lawyers. His main mission is to defend the interests of these professionals before public and private institutions, as well as in national and international forums. This leadership is essential to maintain the cohesion and influence of the profession in the legal and social spheres.

He is commissioned to protect the profession in several dimensions. He must fight against intrusion and unfair competition, being responsible for ensuring that the Council prepares and issues legal reports requested by the Administration, Colleges and Official Corporations, in addition to proposing legislative reforms.

The CGAE coordinates the activities of the 83 Bar Associations of Spain and is composed by the president-deans of these institutions and also by twelve lawyers of recognized prestige, one of whom is the undersigned.

We must therefore congratulate ourselves on this issue.



From left to right: Salvador Gonzalez (President of the Consejo), Nielson Sánchez-Stewart (Consejero and Vice-President of AEA-EAL), Eugenio Gay (Former President of the Consejo and of FBE).

PAST EVENTS IN 2024

Webinar „Lawyers' Communication, Publicity and Advertising. The Experience in Azerbaijan and Europe“



On April 5, 2024 the webinar was held, organized by AEA-EAL, Deontology Committee and the Azerbaijan Bar Association (ABA).

The speakers from AEA-EAL and ABA discussed the problems of communication, publicity and advertising of lawyers in Azerbaijan, as well as in the European countries.

AEA-EAL is also planning to have a symposium in late 2024, in respect of professional secret with the following subjects:

- nature of the obligation and origin of its establishment,
- legal activities covered by professional secret,
- duration of the obligation and application to third parties,
- penalties for violation,
- confidentiality of correspondence between lawyers,
- professional secret of in house lawyers,
- professional secret in big firms, Chinese walls,
- professional secret and money laundering,
- professional secret and tax obligations.

[WEBSITE](#)

Webinar „Mediation for Cross-Border Disputes“



On April 18, 2024 the webinar was held, organized by AEA-EAL Mediation Committee and the International Online Dispute Resolution Centre (eBRAM) from Hong Kong.

During the first part of the webinar speakers from AEA-EAL and eBRAM shared their experiences in managing mediation for cross-border disputes.

The second part of the webinar included the live demo of eBRAM mediation platform and its application in cross-border mediation.

It was highlighted that the institutions will continue further cooperation and work on joint activities.

[WEBSITE](#)

International Conference „Development of the human rights lawyers' community: theory and practice“



On April 19-20, 2024 an international conference was held in Vilnius, Lithuania. AEA-EAL collective member – the Białystok Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law – representative Helena Janczyk participated as a speaker with the presentation „On the Role of Polish Lawyers' Association in Supporting „Defendants of Justice“ and „Human Rights Lawyers“ in the current Europe“.

The objectives of the Conference were:

- to strengthen the legal community of the Eastern European region based on common values, competencies and approaches for increasing access to justice and promoting and protecting human rights,
- to identify opportunities to increase access to justice through the activities of human rights lawyers,
- to discuss issues of in-service training of human rights lawyers and strengthening educational outcomes.

The Conference was dedicated to the Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers, registered in Vilnius, Lithuania, bringing together Belarusian lawyers in exile, deprived of the status of a lawyer in their country for political reasons, forced to leave their country and to present and discuss best practices and support for human rights lawyers who have already started implementing these methods in their activities.

The Conference also discussed the draft of a new Convention on the Legal Profession, particularly with regard to its relevance to expanding the circle of defenders of justice, which includes human rights lawyers who are deprived of their status as lawyers for their professional activities in non-democratic countries. At the same time, the possibility and need to create an international association of human rights lawyers, which would bring together lawyers from all over the world, who are deprived of their statute in their countries and repressed for political reasons in their countries, was debated, since, according to the Report prepared by consultant Jeremy McBride under the leadership of the European Committee for Legal Cooperation (CDCJ), the fundamental values of the legal profession are being violated in many countries.

The Conference was attended by a significant number of participants and lecturers from various countries.

The conference also featured an art exhibition „Belarusian Lawyers in Prison“, dedicated to Belarusian lawyers who were political prisoners in Belarus.

[WEBSITE](#)

Webinar „Legal Situation of Mothers in Countries from the East to the West“



On May 23, 2024 the webinar was held on the occasion of the Mother's Day, organized by AEA-EAL and the Opole Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law.

The webinar hosted the human rights lawyer from Kazakhstan, Aliman Umarova as well as the solicitor from the UK, Dorota Beange, speaking about the legal situation of women and mothers in different jurisdictions.

[WEBSITE](#)

Guidelines for Lawyers in Mediation



AEA-EAL Mediation Committee has developed the Guidelines for Lawyers in Mediation for the members of the Association. The Guidelines were published on April 15, 2024.

The document is to be downloaded here:

[GUIDELINES](#)

CJ-AV 8th meeting – Strasbourg, France



On May 13-15, the Committee of Experts and Observers (CJ-AV) working on the draft Convention for the protection of lawyers was held in Strasbourg. The AEA-EAL having the status of observer was present at this meeting, represented by its President, Maria Słazak.

The CJ-AV carried out a careful examination of the 12th version of the draft text of the future legal instrument (document CJ-AV(2022)05 prov12), in the light of the drafting proposals collected through the stakeholder consultation that took place from mid-February to early April.

The CJ-AV reviewed and discussed all the drafting proposals individually as it went through the draft convention and explanatory report.

Friendship Agreement between AEA-EAL, CLA and UMCS



On May 21, 2024 in Lublin, Poland there was a ceremony to sign the friendship agreement. The three parties to this agreement were the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL), the California Lawyers Association (CLA) and the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin (UMCS).

The meeting was held at the premises of the UMCS Law and Administration Faculty. The friendship agreement was signed by AEA-EAL President – Maria Słazak, CLA President – Betty Williams, CLA International Law & Immigration Section Chair – Margaret Francisco, UMCS Vice-Rector – Arkadiusz Berezka, UMCS Director of the Institute of Legal Sciences – Leszek Leszczyński, and UMCS Dean of the Law and Administration Faculty – Anna Przybrowska-Kilmczak.

This Friendship agreement is a result of previous cooperation related to the international conference organized by UMCS and AEA-EAL in Lublin in March 2024 and attended by the speaker from CLA. Signing of the agreement was accepted by all the parties as a basis of even more intense future cooperation in scientific and professional fields.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2024 AND 2025

International Conference „Liberal Market Order and Zeitenwende“



On September 12, 2024 a traditional conference on market access will be held in Bern, Switzerland, organized by University of Bern. AEA-EAL is the co-organizer of this event.

The conference will discuss the negotiations between Switzerland and the EU as a current market example.

[AGENDA](#)

Polish-German Legal Forum



On September 5-7, 2024 the 14th edition of the Polish-German Legal Forum will be held in Opole, Poland, organized by the Opole Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law. The co-organizers are: AEA-EAL, Rechtsanwaltskammer Sachsen, Polish National Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law (Izba Radców Prawnych), Bar Associations of Attorneys-at-Law in Wałbrzych, Katowice, Zielenka Góra, Toruń, Łódź, Wrocław, Fundacja Współpracy Polsko-Niemieckiej and Opolskie Centrum Rozwoju Gospodarki, OCKG – a body of the local government of Opole Province. The Forum was also granted the patronage from the European Commission.

The Polish German Legal Forum is a periodic conference, covering cross-border legal issues, including the EU law and the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, supporting international cooperation between lawyers and cross-border provision of legal services.

The substantive blocks of the Forum are obligations, in anti-money laundering, and international family law and lawyers' communication.

[AGENDA](#)

International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity – Artificial Intelligence, Law, and Algorithm.



In Spring 2025 in Sopot, Poland the third edition of the international conference will be held, organized by the Gdańsk Bar Association of Attorneys-at-Law and AEA-EAL. This will be the third time for AEA-EAL New Technologies Committee to take part in organizing that event.

This time the conference will focus on artificial intelligence and cybersecurity within targeted sectors: maritime, insurance, life sciences, and alternative dispute resolutions.

European Association of Lawyers : Association Européenne des Avocats
AEA-EAL
Av. Louise 235 - 1050-Brussels - Belgium KBO/BCE 0465.302.664
phone: 00 32 2 543 02 00
office@aea-eal.eu