



Notaries of Europe

Providing legal certainty

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

[www.cnue.eu](http://www.cnue.eu)

A Year In Review  
External Relations  
Communications  
Management  
At The Service Of Citizens And The States

Notaries of Europe

Providing legal certainty

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# President's Foreword



In the field of European affairs, 2019 will remain a special year. First of all, there was the period of the European elections, which the CNUE used to get involved in Parliament's "This time I'm voting" campaign and to publish its proposals for action for the new legislature. And then there was the unpredictable, this endless Brexit saga, giving us its share of twists and turns almost daily. Nevertheless, despite the uncertainties, during the many interviews I conducted with national and European political leaders, I was able to filter the priorities and main objectives of the European institutions of interest to the notariat for the coming years.

Notaries are eagerly awaited, for example, on the front line of the fight against money laundering, an area in which we can highlight our effective cooperation with government authorities. There is also the question of the increasing digitalisation of the activities of legal professionals. To achieve this, the European institutions clearly demonstrate their willingness to pool efforts and implement interoperability solutions on which the notariat must take a position.

In an increasingly connected world, reliability and trust are essential assets that notaries are able to provide. It is by fully opening up to digitalisation that we will make ourselves indispensable to citizens, businesses and governments. In organising this year's CNUE Innovation Prizes at the European Parliament, we wanted to demonstrate that the European notariat has made a strong commitment to this, as it has always done.

The award ceremony took place in the context of the Europe Enacted exhibition, which was held for a week at the European Parliament. This now travelling exhibition highlights notarial acts of major historical value, preserved in the national archives. It also presents the digital tools created by notariats to provide a modern and efficient service for their clients and the States.

Through the history and stories it tells, this exhibition makes it possible to better define the notariat's identity. The notariat is the profession of authenticity, truth, certainty and conservation of the data on which the trust of States and our fellow citizens is based. At a time when false information, falsified data and money laundering are on the rise, this truth and certainty are more than ever essential to society.

Because, let us never forget it: a Europe that protects, a Europe that is close to the citizens, is a Europe that needs its notaries.

**Pierre-Luc Vogel**  
2019 CNUE President

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# A YEAR IN REVIEW



## **CNUE – Transfer of Powers** *16 January 2019*

Hosted by the Conseil supérieur du notariat français, the 2017 and 2018 CNUE Boards met in Paris on 16 January 2019 for the transfer of powers ceremony. On this occasion, Mr Marius Kohler handed over the reins to his successor as President of the CNUE, Mr Pierre-Luc Vogel.

In the presence of the President of the Notaries of France, Mr Jean-François Humbert, and Mr Thomas Andrieux, Director of Civil Affairs and the Seal, Mr Vogel detailed the main lines of his work programme for 2019, with a view to Brexit and the European elections.

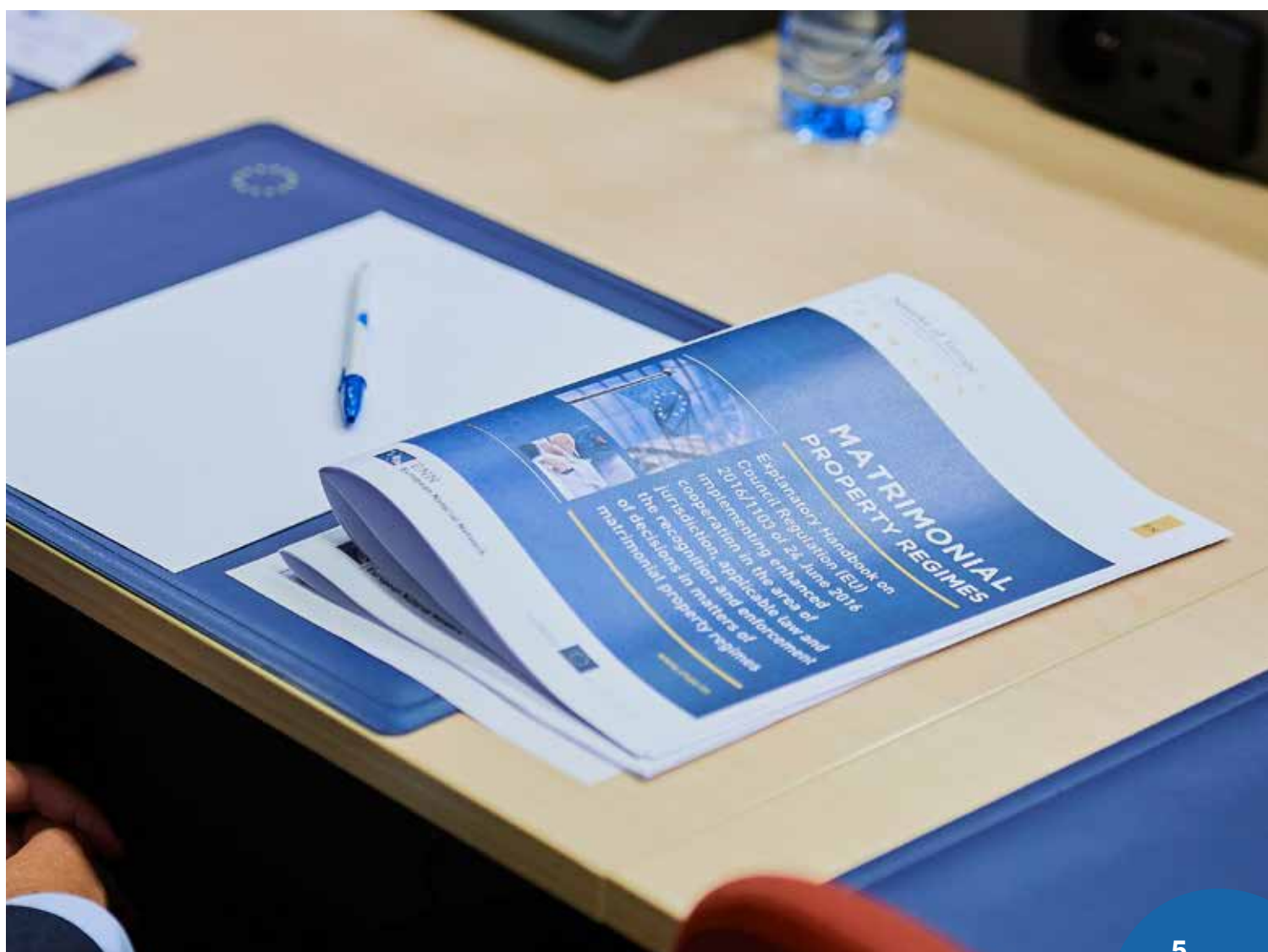


## Application of European Regulations on Matrimonial Property Regimes and Registered Partnerships

29 January 2019

European Regulations 2016/1103 on matrimonial property regimes and 2016/1104 on the property consequences of registered partnerships became applicable on 29 January as part of an enhanced cooperation procedure currently involving 18 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

Thanks to these two Regulations, the conflict of laws rules are now unified between the Member States participating in the enhanced cooperation to determine the applicable law and the competent court which will decide on the division of assets in the event of, inter alia, separation of the couple or death. These laws will have a definite impact on the work of notaries and international couples in Europe. This is why the CNUE is taking action through training and practical tools.





## Notaries of Europe Join European Parliament’s “This Time I’m Voting” Campaign

29 March 2019

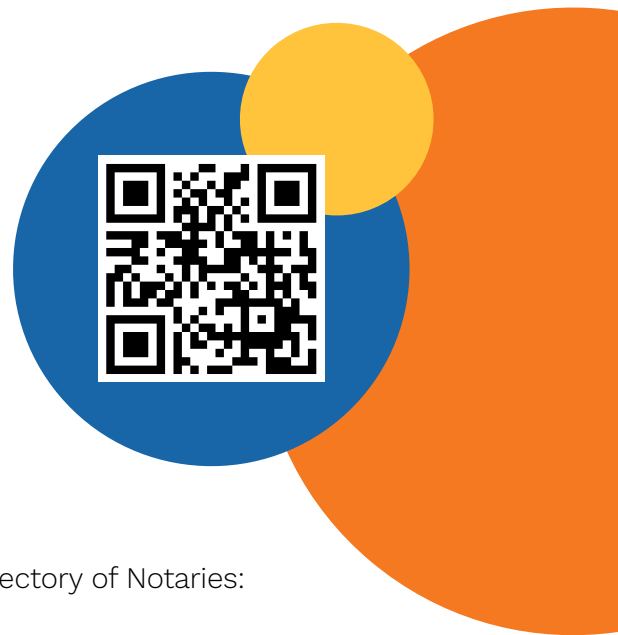
At its General Assembly on 29 March 2019, the CNUE decided to join the European Parliament’s “This time I’m voting” campaign. This pan-European and non-political campaign aimed to encourage as many people as possible to vote in the European elections in May 2019. The CNUE’s aim: to ensure that the abstentionist party was not the main European party.



In the presence of the European Parliament’s director for communications with citizens, Mr Stephen Clark, the CNUE support was formalised with the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding, under which the CNUE undertook to promote the campaign among notaries and citizens.







## EUROPEAN DIRECTORY OF NOTARIES

Find a notary who speaks your language

### European Directory of Notaries revamped

2 April 2019

The CNUE unveiled on 2 April the new version of its European Directory of Notaries:

[www.notaries-directory.eu](http://www.notaries-directory.eu)

Created in 2011 and available in 23 languages, the Directory lists the approximately 45,000 notaries of Europe across the 22 countries of the European Union that are familiar with the notarial system. It gives access to the notaries' contact details and also lists the languages spoken. The European Directory of Notaries is the result of a long-standing partnership with the European Union, which provided financial support for its creation.

### CNUE meets in London to discuss the consequences of Brexit

15 April 2019

The CNUE held a discussion session on 15 April in London on the consequences of Brexit in the field of civil justice. In the prestigious setting of the Residence of France, British practitioners were invited to share their opinions on the ongoing political process and the concrete consequences for citizens in terms of family law, inheritance law and the fight against money laundering.



The Ambassador of France to the United Kingdom, Mr Jean-Pierre Jouyet, honoured the participants with his presence. When asked about the ongoing negotiations, his comments perfectly illustrated the complexity of the issue, both at legal and political levels. Mr Pierre-Luc Vogel, President of the CNUE, assured him that all European notariats would be called upon to assist citizens living in the United Kingdom or on the Continent in dealing with the many legal issues that will arise in their daily lives.





### **31<sup>st</sup> Conference of European Civil-Law Notaries** *25-26 April 2019*



On 25 and 26 April, the Austrian notariat held the 31<sup>st</sup> edition of its Conference of European Civil-Law Notaries in Salzburg with the theme: “Europe as a Unifying Principle - Ambition & Realisation”. Brexit, the migration crisis and Euro-critics on the rise throughout Europe: the European Union is faced with existential challenges. At this meeting, the discussion covered the threats of European disintegration and the root causes of the political transformations of recent years.

In particular, the programme focused on the progressing digitalisation in company law and the ever-growing interconnection of registers against the backdrop of the implementation of the European company law package. Among other things, under the recent Directive (EU) 2019/1151, Member States must now ensure that limited liability companies can be incorporated entirely online without the founders having to appear in person before a court, notary or any other body competent under national law.



## Publication of Notaries of Europe Proposals for European Elections

2 May 2019

With a view to the European elections, at the beginning of May the CNUE unveiled its manifesto for future MEPs and members of the College of the European Commission. In the context of the increasing internationalisation of family and economic relations, the CNUE was seeking through this manifesto to make a series of recommendations and proposals in order to respond better to the needs of practitioners and citizens.



The CNUE identified five main themes in its fields of action to be addressed by the European Union:

1. Fostering the development of non-contentious justice in Europe
2. Facilitating the settlement of successions in Europe
3. Supporting families in Europe
4. Protecting the vulnerable
5. Acting in the fight against money laundering

The CNUE manifesto is available at the following link:  
<http://www.notaries-of-europe.eu/files/publications/cnue-manifesto-en.pdf>





### **Meeting of the European Notarial Network** *23-24 May 2019*

For its first annual meeting, the European Notarial Network (ENN) held a two-day event in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. On 23 May, a seminar on family law and data protection was held in the context of the first anniversary of the application of the European GDPR Regulation. Pierre-Luc Vogel, President of the CNUE, opened the debates in the presence of Sonja Kralj, President of the Chamber of Notaries of Slovenia, and the State Secretary for Justice Gregor Strojín. Jaša Vrabc, Chair of the working group on the evaluation of judicial systems of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ, an emanation of the Council of Europe), was also among the speakers.

He spoke with Pierre-Luc Vogel: an opportunity to highlight the excellent working relationship with the CNUE.

On 24 May, the day was devoted to the meeting of the ENN interlocutors. The participants reviewed the various actions planned for 2019, in particular those involving European Commission co-funding: the organisation of workshops, the creation of a database for company representation rights in the Member States, the updating of CNUE information websites and increased communication with European notaries to acquaint them with the platform. The participants also initiated a reflection to improve the functioning of the ENN by optimising its operational usefulness on the basis of an audit and proposals made by the Hungarian notariat.



## **CNUE Plenary General Assembly** *20-21 June 2019*

The CNUE member and observer notariats met in Saint-Malo (France) on 20 and 21 June 2019 for the annual Plenary General Assembly. The first day was devoted to working sessions on competition law and new technologies, with external speakers. The aim was to foster exchanges between members and to raise awareness of national situations and initiatives.

The second day was dedicated to institutional, statutory and political issues. In particular, an experimental reorganisation of the working structures of CNUE was adopted. With respect to data protection, the CNUE General Assembly gave the go-ahead for the adoption of an action plan for better exchange of good practices and the implementation of awareness-raising and training activities.

The fight against money laundering is one of the CNUE's other main priorities, in line with the European institutions.



While the Commission has brought numerous actions against Member States for failure to transpose the Fourth Directive correctly, the Fifth Directive must be transposed into national law by 10 January 2020.

The notariat is active in this context: at national level, it cooperates effectively with national authorities and, at global level, it is involved in the work of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). At the General Assembly, the notariats agreed to set up a common strategy, including the establishment of a framework for risk analysis.

### **The Plenary General Assembly in Saint-Malo (France)**





## Presentation of the new College of European Commissioners

10 September 2019

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, unveiled the composition of her College on 10 September. The Belgian Didier Reynders inherits the position of Commissioner for Justice, which includes many areas of competence of direct interest to the European notariat (consumer protection, civil justice, etc.). Didier Reynders comes from the Belgian liberal family (Mouvement Réformateur). He has served as Minister of Finance (1999-2004 and 2007-2011), Foreign Affairs (2011-2018) and Defence (since the end of 2018).

Continuing Jean-Claude Juncker's efforts, Ursula von der Leyen has created Vice-President positions to supervise several Commissioners. Specifically, Věra Jourová becomes Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for Values and Transparency. During the last legislature, Věra Jourová was in charge of the Justice portfolio. This area will remain under her supervision.

The CNUE congratulates the Commissioners on their appointment. It stands ready to work with them on their policy priorities for the next five years.



## CNUE publishes its first mook, devoted to family law

20 September 2019

As part of the Training III programme “Europe for Notaries – Notaries for Europe”, the CNUE published in September the first issue of a “mook” on European family law. In the context of the application of the two European regulations on matrimonial property regimes and registered partnerships, the publication is intended for legal practitioners who wish to explore the subject in greater depth through articles by notaries and academics, better understand the CNUE’s training activities and, finally, discover the various practical tools at their disposal. The CNUE is already preparing for early 2020 a second issue that will be devoted to the other theme of the training programme: the fight against money laundering. The publication is available at the following link: [http://www.notaries-of-europe.eu/files/publications/CNUE-Supporting\\_Couples\\_120919.pdf](http://www.notaries-of-europe.eu/files/publications/CNUE-Supporting_Couples_120919.pdf)

The “Europe for Notaries - Notaries for Europe” programme takes place over two years, from 2018 to 2020. With the European Union’s support, it involves the organisation, in partnership with the national notarial authorities, of 21 seminars in 14 Member States. This programme responds to the European Commission’s aim to offer at least half of legal professionals in Europe the opportunity to follow European training at local, national or European level by 2020. In its evaluation report on the European judicial training strategy published on 25 October, the European Commission announced that its objectives had now been achieved.





### **Meeting with the President of the CEPEJ, Mr Ramin Gurbanov** *23 September 2019*

On 23 September, CNUE President Mr Pierre-Luc Vogel met Mr Ramin Gurbanov, President of the Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) of the Council of Europe. As an observer member of the CEPEJ since 2012, the CNUE is involved in several of its working groups: GT-EVAL and GT-MED. During the meeting, the two presidents discussed, in particular, the joint projects between the two organisations: the drafting of reports on the efficiency of the notarial profession in cooperation with GT-EVAL and on notarial mediation with GT-MED.



### **Meeting of the European Notarial Network** *26-27 September 2019*

The ENN interlocutors met for their second annual meeting in Riga, Latvia. On 26 September, they reviewed the projects underway for 2019 and the future projects that will be started in 2020: the creation of new tools and functionalities for the platform, the updating of CNUE information websites, promotion of the ENN to notaries, etc. On 27 September, a seminar on the fight against money laundering gave some 100 participants of more than 22 different nationalities the opportunity to attend practical interventions and workshops led by several international experts in the field.





**Meeting with the Croatian Minister of Justice, Mr Dražen Bošnjaković**  
*24 octobre 2019*

With a view to the upcoming Croatian EU Council Presidency in the first half of 2020, CNUE President Pierre-Luc Vogel met with Croatian Minister of Justice Dražen Bošnjaković. The discussions were held in Zagreb on the margins of the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Croatian notariat. In particular, they made it possible to elaborate on the central role played by notaries in family law and real estate law.



**4<sup>th</sup> Edition of Notaries of Europe Open Days**  
*25 October 2019*

For the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Notaries of Europe Open Days, the CNUE held events in 14 European Union countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. The programme included information sessions, conferences and free consultations attended by several thousand people. The list of events is available on the Council of Europe website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cepej/events/european-day-of-justice>. The Notaries of Europe Open Days are part of the European Day of Justice, an initiative of the European Commission and the Council of Europe that takes place every year around 25 October. Its objective is to bring justice closer to citizens, inform them about their rights and promote the work of the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of justice.





## Europe Enacted Exhibition

11-15 November 2019

The travelling exhibition “Europe Enacted” took place at the Brussels headquarters of the European Parliament from 11 to 15 November 2019. The exhibition aimed to highlight notarial acts of major historical value, preserved in the national archives. From the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the acts selected reflect the richness of Europe’s heritage: the will of Queen Isabel la Católica, the award of the George Cross to the Maltese nation, the renunciation document signed by Archduchess Marie-Antoinette of the crowns belonging to the House of Austria, etc. The exhibition also presents the digital tools created by notariats to provide a modern and efficient service for their clients and the States.



Exhibition website:

[www.notariesofeurope-exhibition.eu](http://www.notariesofeurope-exhibition.eu)



On 13 November, the CNUE held an opening ceremony attended by representatives of the 22 notariats of the European Union, the European institutions and the Member States. MEP Angelika Niebler (EPP, Germany), patron of the exhibition, opened the ceremony alongside Jens Bormann, President of the German notariat, Thierry Thomas, exhibition curator, and Pierre-Luc Vogel, President of the CNUE. On this occasion, Mr Vogel announced the winners of the first CNUE Innovation Prizes. Prizes were awarded to the European notariats' most innovative projects. The following received an award:

- Special Prize of the Presidency: the Austrian and German notariats for their online company creation systems.
- Prize for Administrative Services: the Hungarian notariat for the implementation of an online payment order procedure.
- Client Relations Prize: the Belgian notariat for the implementation of "Biddit", the online platform for real estate auctions.
- Notary Services Prize: the Italian notariat for its "NotaioSmart" project, a system for creating intelligent contracts.
- Special Prize of the Jury: the Maltese notariat for its "Notarypedia" project, which aims to make the knowledge space available in the national archives more easily accessible and searchable by researchers and the general public.





## EXTERNAL RELATIONS



### European Notarial Associations

The CNUE is proud to give administrative and logistical support to the various notarial organisations set up under its impetus, such as EUFides and the ENRWA. The CNUE organises and hosts these associations' General Assemblies and Board meetings.



**ENRWA**

[www.arert.eu](http://www.arert.eu)

The ENRWA works on the interconnection of registers of wills and European Certificates of Succession (ECS) in Europe. Fifteen registers of wills and three ECS registers are now interconnected thanks to the ENRWA. Each year the network registers more than 2500 queries and finds more than 350 wills in a foreign register.

On 16 July 2019, the ENRWA obtained co-funding from the European Commission to implement the RERT'Improv project, which aims to optimise the interconnection of the registers of wills and ECSs through two actions. The first will be to increase the performance of the IT platform, by improving the finesse and quality of the information exchanged. The second aims to increase the network's visibility by communicating effectively with notaries. This two-year project should increase the number of queries, as well as the number of cases in which a will is found or there is the certainty of the absence of a will.



**EUFIDES**

[www.eufides.eu](http://www.eufides.eu)

EUFides is a secure collaboration platform that facilitates cooperation between European notaries dealing with cross-border cases. Originally designed to deal

with cross-border real estate transactions, EUFides now makes it possible to handle succession and company law files.

# COMMUNICATIONS

## Information Websites

The Notaries of Europe provide the general public with thematic information websites:

**Successions in Europe:** [www.successions-europe.eu](http://www.successions-europe.eu) 

**Couples in Europe:** [www.couples-europe.eu](http://www.couples-europe.eu) 

**Buying property in Europe:** [www.buyingmyhome.eu](http://www.buyingmyhome.eu) 

**The Vulnerable in Europe:** [www.the-vulnerable.eu](http://www.the-vulnerable.eu) 

**Authentic Acts in Europe:** [www.authentic-acts.eu](http://www.authentic-acts.eu) 

These websites are multilingual and provide an overview of the national law of the Member States. In short, these are valuable tools to consult before going to see your notary!

# COMMUNICATIONS

## European Directory of Notaries

[www.notaries-directory.eu](http://www.notaries-directory.eu)

The directory lists the data of around 45,000 European notaries. Searches can be done on the basis of country, language spoken or name.



## European Notarial Network

[www.enn-rne.eu](http://www.enn-rne.eu)

The European Notarial Network (ENN) assists notaries in the handling of cross-border cases by offering a range of practical and informative tools via a secure platform.



## Social Media



### Twitter

Follow the CNUE on Twitter @EUnotaries to find out the latest news, events, publications and press releases.

Discover the CNUE's account:

[www.twitter.com/EUnotaries](http://www.twitter.com/EUnotaries)



### LinkedIn

Join the Notaries of Europe community at:

[www.linkedin.com/company/council-of-the-notariats-of-the-european-union](http://www.linkedin.com/company/council-of-the-notariats-of-the-european-union)



### YouTube

Discover the last CNUE's videos:

[www.youtube.com/user/EUNotaries](http://www.youtube.com/user/EUNotaries)

# MANAGEMENT



## The CNUE in Brief

The Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) is the official body representing the notarial profession in dealings with the European institutions. Speaking for the profession, it has negotiating and decision-making powers on behalf of all the notariats of the European Union, so some 45,000 European notaries and their 200 000 staff.

The CNUE represents the notariats of the EU Member States familiar with this institution: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. The notariats from the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey have observer member status.

Video presenting the CNUE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oDCZ0zb-GU&t=172s>





## Full Members



**1) Austria**  
Österreichische Notariatskammer  
Number of notaries: **519**



**12) Latvia**  
Latvijas Zvērinātu notāru padome  
Number of notaries: **106**



**2) Belgium**  
Conseil International du Notariat Belge  
Number of notaries: **1 605**



**13) Lithuania**  
Lietuvos Notaru Rūmai  
Number of notaries: **252**



**3) Bulgaria**  
Chambre des Notaires de Bulgarie  
Number of notaries: **675**



**14) Luxembourg**  
Chambre des Notaires du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg  
Number of notaries: **36**



**4) Croatia**  
Hrvatska javnobilježnička komora  
Number of notaries: **324**



**15) Malta**  
Kunsill Notarili ta' Malta  
Number of notaries: **359**



**5) Czech Republic**  
Notarska komora Ceske republiky  
Number of notaries: **444**



**16) The Netherlands**  
Koninklijke Notariële Beroepsorganisatie  
Number of notaries: **1 264**



**6) Estonia**  
Eesti Vabriigi Notarite Koda  
Number of notaries: **91**



**17) Poland**  
Krajowa Rada Notarialna  
Number of notaries: **3 553**



**7) France**  
Conseil Supérieur du Notariat Français  
Number of notaries: **14 968**



**18) Portugal**  
Ordem dos Notários Portugal  
Number of notaries: **417**



**8) Germany**  
Bundesnotarkammer  
Number of notaries: **7 088**



**19) Romania**  
Uniunea Națională a Notarilor Publici din România  
Number of notaries: **2 412**



**9) Greece**  
Conseil National du Notariat Grec  
Number of notaries: **2 872**



**20) Slovakia**  
Notárska komora Slovenskej republiky  
Number of notaries: **346**



**10) Hungary**  
Magyar Országos Közjegyzői Kamara  
Number of notaries: **315**



**21) Slovenia**  
Notarska Zbornica Slovenije  
Number of notaries: **93**



**11) Italy**  
Consiglio Nazionale del Notariato  
Number of notaries: **4 970**



**22) Spain**  
Consejo General del Notariado  
Number of notaries: **2 806**

## Observer Members



**23) Montenegro**  
Notary Chamber of Montenegro  
Number of notaries: **53**



**25) Serbia**  
Serbian Chamber of Notaries  
Number of notaries: **163**



**24) Republic of North Macedonia**  
Notarska komora na Republika Makedonija  
Number of notaries: **198**



**26) Turkey**  
Türkiye noterler Birligi  
Number of notaries: **1 575**





2019 CNUE Board



2019 CNUE President  
**Pierre-Luc Vogel**  
France



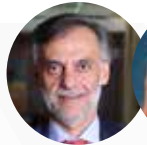
2019 CNUE Incoming Vice-President  
**Georgios Rouskas**  
Greece



**Dimitar Tanev**  
Bulgaria



**Ádám Tóth**  
Hungary



**Domenico Cambareri, then  
Valentina Rubertelli**  
Italy



**Maarten Meijer**  
Netherlands



**Sonja Krajl**  
Slovenia

2020 CNUE Board



2020 CNUE President  
**Georgios Rouskas**  
Greece



2020 CNUE Incoming Vice-President  
**Ádám Tóth**  
Hungary



**Jens Bormann**  
Germany



**Zvijezdana Rauš-Klier**  
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Spain



**Merle Saar-Johanson**  
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Legal Adviser

# AT THE SERVICE OF CITIZENS AND THE STATES



## The notary's mission: establishing authentic instruments

The notaries' mission, which they carry out as delegates of the State that nominates them and accords them the status of public office holder, is to confer authenticity on the legal instruments they establish for their clients. Authenticating an instrument involves gathering together and expressing the wishes of those involved impartially and in full respect of the law. By appending the State's seal next to the signature of the parties on the instruments they draw up, notaries are responsible for the content and the form. An authentic instrument has similar value to a judgement and cannot be contested, except

by judicial means. Authentic instruments have probative value, which applies to both justice and the administration in addition to all third parties. They are also enforceable, enabling the contracting parties to obtain direct enforcement of their reciprocal obligations before the courts. The authentication of acts and contracts is a public service, generally subject to the rules of territorial distribution and to price control. Notaries must guarantee the publicity of the authentic instrument to third parties and the State, primarily by registering it on the public registers that exist for this purpose. They are also responsible for its perpetuity as they must keep the original in their archives and issue authentic copies.



## Notaries, advisers for families

Notaries are legal advisers for families, providing answers to their questions with respect to their estate: home buying, marriage contracts, registered partnerships, donations, wills, succession settlements, etc. Notaries do not only retrospectively settle the property consequences of family events such as divorce, death or an accident

leading to a disability. They are also advisers who can be consulted by families at any time, to prepare the transfer of assets or modify the structure of an estate, according to current or future needs. Notaries also have a role, as a trusted third party, in the use of alternative conflict resolution methods such as mediation, conciliation, and in some cases arbitration.



## Notaries at the service of real estate

Many players are involved in real estate, such as estate agents, experts, bankers and the State itself. Notaries, at the heart of the process, facilitate and organise their involvement. They gather together the necessary preliminary information and expertise, where required, draw up a loan document and in most cases

conduct the subsequent formalities. These include registration in the public registers, collection and payment of taxes and the final issue of the ownership deed to the purchaser. In many countries, they act as a one-stop-shop.



## Notaries advising business people

In many countries, legislators have endeavoured to make business life as secure as possible, by entrusting notaries with exclusive competence to draw up legal instruments incorporating and modifying companies, in addition to many legal instruments certifying their activity. Notaries help business projects to succeed and thus better protect the company's shareholders and creditors from the outset. The legal form of the company, the division of powers at its heart

and the social and tax status of its directors all affect their family lives and personal estate. The marriage, divorce, fatherhood or motherhood of its directors, not to mention their retirement or death, also has repercussions for the company. Notaries carry out an overall analysis; they are able to find complete congruence between the needs of the company, its durability and the aspirations of its management and workforce.



## Notaries in the fight against money laundering

Notaries play a central and effective role in the fight against money laundering. They implement recommendations from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the resulting European legislation. In particular, notaries must inform

the public authorities if they have suspicions about a financial operation or transaction. In such cases, notaries must maintain a balance between observing professional secrecy and supporting the work of the public authorities.

# Message From The President



2019 has been a year of political changes for the European Union. The elections resulted in a reconstitution of the European Parliament and its majority forces, and the election of a new college of Commissioners headed by Ms Von der Leyen. The CNUE has already expressed its willingness to continue its excellent cooperation in 2020 with Vice-President Věra Jourová and the new Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders.

Among our work priorities, we will focus on company law issues, in particular the transposition of the Directive on the digitalisation of the life cycle of companies into national law. This directive relies on the involvement of notaries to ensure legal certainty in the process, the identification and verification of the legal capacity of entrepreneurs, impartial advice and the prevention of money laundering and tax fraud.

The issue of the fight against money laundering and the implementation of the various European legislations will be another of our priorities. Our exemplary involvement in this area is a major asset for the European notariat because it highlights the interest of our status for the States.

And finally, of course, there is the issue of the digitalisation of our activities. The new Commission intends to strengthen the EU's technological sovereignty. A coordinated approach on artificial intelligence and a new Digital Services Act are envisaged. Today, the European notariat is at the forefront of the legal professions and is therefore an essential partner. Let us ensure that we remain so, and that we are in control of our future and the technological choices that will be made.

**Georgios Rouskas**  
2020 CNUE President