



CNUE President 2017 - José Manuel García Collantes, Spain

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José Manuel García Collantes, 2017 CNUE President

Biography

Mr García Collantes has served as a notary in Spain since 1979 and has a long and recognised international career along with a clear pro-European vocation. He was Vice-President of the CNUE in 2016 and has held various positions in this field over the last 20 years. These include being a delegate of the Spanish Notariat for the European Union and International Affairs as well as President of the Commission for European Affairs of the International Union of Notaries. Moreover, he was President of the 2007 World Notary Congress. He is currently an advisor to the International Union of Notaries.

In Spain, he was President of the General Council of the Spanish Notariat between 2013 and 2016 and Dean of the Notarial Chamber of Madrid. In the academic sphere, he holds a Doctorate in Law and has been an associate professor in Commercial Law at the Complutense University. In 2016, the Spanish Government awarded him with the Grand Cross of the Order of San Raimundo of Peñafort due to his “distinguished accomplishments” in the field of Law.

President message

In 2017, the notaries of the European Union will have to face a hugely significant challenge brought about by the EU agenda: the consolidation of the European Digital Single Market. I am convinced that we, as European notaries, have a great deal to contribute to the legal certainty of transactions on this market and, more specifically, to the legal protection of consumers within a digital setting. We will debate this topic, amongst others, during the fourth Congress of European Notaries, that will be held from 5 to 7 October in the wonderful Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela, a symbol of European unity. I hope that the notaries from the 22 CNUE Member States will take part in this meeting in order to present our joint conclusions to the European authorities, conclusions that shall constitute the beginnings of future civil and commercial law directives. We will also focus on the transfer of a company’s registered office within the European Union. This is not a minor issue. The effective implementation of freedom of movement across the EU calls for a Directive that will harmonise the registered office and the actual centre of activities of corporate legal entities.



Without a doubt, all of us as notaries share the idea that we should actively participate in drafting European laws and regulations on civil, commercial and succession matters, as we have done with recent EU regulations regarding successions and marriages and registered partnerships. Another issue, although no less important, is our need to strengthen our collaboration to fight against money laundering during 2017, especially at times like these, when the European Commission, Council and Parliament are promoting a project to modify the Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive.

The notary system is flourishing across the world. An increasing number of countries are modifying their legislation and adopting the Latin-Germanic notary model. We provide society with preventive legal certainty, thanks to the authority that our States have bestowed upon us. Through our involvement, acts and agreements between individuals enter into legal circulation once their legality has been monitored. We are impartial and we protect the most vulnerable party within the agreement, which is usually the consumer.

This represents our values. I am convinced that we will continue to be needed and useful for European society as long as we learn to adapt with the times, safeguarding the required legal certainty with the same level of quality, rigour and integrity.

There is no magic formula to achieve this and yet a key element does exist: to learn more about each other and work together by fostering the relationship between the 22 member notariats. My experience on the European stage and with the CNUE, with which I have collaborated for 20 years, tells me that it is possible.