\_ Press release

The Notaries of Europe welcome the proposal for a Regulation on the protection of vulnerable adults

Brussels, 1 June 2023

The Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) welcomes the European Commission’s proposal for a Regulation aimed at strengthening the protection of vulnerable adults in a cross-border context as well as for a Council Decision to ensure that all Member States will soon be party to the Hague Convention of 13 January 2000 on the Protection of Adults.

The proposals are of particular importance as the European Union is faced with an increasing number of vulnerable people. The Vulnerable, whether elderly, disabled or otherwise impaired, need more and more cross-border protection and care. However, due to different rules and procedures, it is often difficult for vulnerable adults and their families to have their rights and protection measures recognised in cross border situations.

The proposal for a Regulation is set to facilitate both the determination of the competent courts in the Member States and of the applicable law as well as the recognition and enforcement of protection measures taken in another Member State. The initiative is a step towards greater digitalisation of procedures, in particular through the creation of national registers and their interconnection, something that the CNUE has been advocating for many years. Finally, the introduction of a European certificate will make it easier for representatives to prove their powers and to assert rights in another EU Member State.

The protection of vulnerable adults, which is also one of the Presidency Priorities of this years’ CNUE President Peter Stelmaszczyk who sees the role of notaries as being “guardians for the weak in society”, is an issue of high importance for the CNUE. For several years, the CNUE has been active in this field and, for example, continued to highlight the importance of the establishment of a European legal instrument on the protection of vulnerable adults. Raising citizens’ awareness and facilitating access to relevant information has always been one of the CNUE’s priorities. In this regard, the CNUE continuously provides citizens with useful information on protection measures for both minors and adults in all 22 CNUE members countries.

In the fall of this year, on the occasion of the European Day of Justice, the CNUE will hold a Conference on the protection of vulnerable adults. Details will be shared soon on the CNUE website.

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\_ The CNUE in a nutshell

**The Council of the Notariats of the European Union** (CNUE) is the official body representing the notarial profession in dealings with the European institutions. The CNUE brings together the notariats of the 22 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 North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine are observer members. The CNUE has more than 45 000 notaries and 200 000 employees.

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