CCBE Resolution on Pension Plans

supporting the French Bars

adopted on February 20, 2020

**The Council of European Bars and Law Societies met in a Standing Committee on 20 February in Vienna:**

**RECALLS** the attachment of European lawyers to a specific pension scheme in each of their countries as an expression of their independence and the liberal nature of their profession;

**RECALLS** the fundamental nature of the principle of the independence of lawyers, including its economic and social aspects;

**RECALLS** point e) of Recommendation No. R(2000) 21 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the freedom of exercise of the profession of lawyer, which states: "*Bars associations or other professional lawyers’ associations should be encouraged to ensure the independence of lawyers and, inter* *alia, to promote the welfare of members of the profession and assist them or their families if circumstances so require*";

**NOTES** that in Member States where lawyers benefit from an autonomous pension management scheme, pensions are efficient and balanced;

**EXPRESSES** its solidarity with the protest movements of French lawyers and Bars whose autonomous pension schemes are being called into question;

**CONDEMNS** the attacks on the Lawyers' independent pension schemes;

**CONDEMNS** the consequences of these reforms on access to law and justice for the most vulnerable citizens.