



Why integrate the legal professions in the European Judicial Network?

Opening up the European Judicial Network (EJN) to the legal professions involved in running the justice system would enable judicial cooperation between States to be enhanced and, in particular, more effective application by legal professionals of EU instruments, in addition to the development of the Network's full potential.

In accordance with the objectives cited in Recital 6 of Decision 2001/470/EC of 28 May 2001, namely to improve, simplify and expedite effective judicial cooperation between the Member States, the participation of legal professionals – and particularly of the European notariat – in the Network's activities is of practical use in legal practice in the European Union, and would enable the Network to reach its objectives even more successfully.

The notariat would help to **simplify** judicial cooperation within the Network by using information technology, through close cross-border cooperation and existing contacts. The notariat would help to **expedite** procedures within the Network as it has few intermediaries in cross-border contacts and through the use of new technologies (already widespread within the notariat). Finally, the notariat's participation in the Network would help to **improve** the Network by enhancing judicial cooperation within the Network, for example through more effective transposition of Community instruments. Moreover, an improvement in the notarial service provided for citizens could be expected.

Furthermore, participation of the legal professions – and more specifically of the European notariat – in the Network would bring added value for citizens and businesses in Europe by improving citizens' access to justice in disputes with a cross-border effect. (In concrete terms, the notariat's participation would be useful due to the delegation of missions in the context of judicial cooperation as provided for by EU legislation.

The notariat already has an important role to play in judicial cooperation, as mentioned in Regulation (EC) No 44/2001 ('Brussels I') and Regulation (EC) No 805/2004 (European Enforcement Order). With the progressive integration of the European Union's justice policies, civil law notaries find themselves increasingly involved in this cooperation.

Moreover, it is interesting to note that the experiences of Member States that already have legal professions in the Network, due to their specific role in certain international conventions, have been positive.

In order to monitor the requests and to limit their scale, a filtering system by contact persons at national level for the legal professions could be created. For the notarial profession, such a system has been implemented in the context of the CNUE's European Notarial Network (ENN).

Opening up of the EJN to the general public?

For the CNUE, the EJN is above all a tool for legal professionals. The CNUE is therefore of the opinion that at this stage the EJN should remain a tool of this kind. It should not be opened up to the general public in order to avoid an excess of work for the contact points. Nevertheless, it is recommended to develop the EJN's website in order to reach out as far as possible to citizens.

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