



17 February 2017

RE: New call for applications for the “European Lawyers in Lesvos” project

Dear presidents, dear colleagues,

We are writing to you concerning the “European Lawyers in Lesvos” (ELIL) project which was launched in July 2016. As you will know, this project was only possible thanks to the generous contributions of many Bars and Law Societies. Following an announcement at the 2016 Vienna Presidents’ Conference, over € 200,000 was collected, and we wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you who supported our efforts. This act was a clear demonstration that our ideas and aims are shared within the European legal profession. The fact that we received so many applications also showed that our members, the lawyers of Europe, are keen to provide legal assistance to the people arriving at the Moria registration and identification centre on Lesvos. It also showed solidarity with our Greek colleagues.

Up until now, we have provided first instance legal advice to more than 650 clients from 37 different countries. 43 volunteer lawyers from 12 countries, who have agreed to leave their families, offices, and spend three weeks on this island to help others. They have made the project work. The project is highly respected in the NGO community and with the authorities in Lesvos, both because of the exemplary work and conduct of the volunteers, and because it has been recognised that first instance legal assistance was missing from the humanitarian aid measures refugees and migrants were receiving in Moria. Due to the commendable work of the volunteers, and more particularly to the work done by our Project Manager, Philip Worthington, we realised that it was necessary to increase the number of volunteer lawyers. The project team on Lesvos now consists of up to six volunteer lawyers, drawn from across Europe. All our volunteer lawyers are specialised in asylum law. The project also has two full-time interpreters (Arabic and Farsi), and a German trainee lawyer. Finally, the project has three project coordinators - two of whom are Greek lawyers, including Ms Aggeliki Santi, who is a member of the Mytilene Bar Association.

We received over 200 applications for the period from July 2016 until March 2017. However, for the second quarter of 2017, **we need more volunteers. Therefore, we kindly ask you to send out a new call for applications amongst your members.** The current application process is explained on our website: www.elil.eu. Should you be interested in having a report from the project printed in your magazine or given at one of your meetings, please feel free to contact our project manager Philip Worthington (info@elil.eu), who will coordinate this with the CCBE Brussels and the Berlin DAV offices.

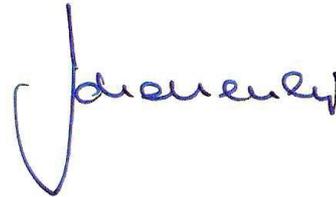
Finally, as the project is due to end in July 2017, we are exploring various options for the future of ELIL. We will inform you in due course about these plans.

We thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruthven Gemmell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Ruthven Gemmell WS,
CCBE President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ulrich Schellenberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'U'.

Ulrich Schellenberg,
DAV President