

# Defend the defenders



Malta, 15 October 2022  
Nicola Canestrini



# ENDANGERED HRD'S / LAWYERS?

All over the world, lawyers are sanctioned, intimidated, harassed, tortured, injured, killed because to their profession.

More than 1000 lawyers and legal workers have been killed or disappeared in the past several decades (International association of people's lawyers).



PROTECT  
**ONE**  
EMPOWER  
A THOUSAND




**2011** IRAN      **2012** TURKEY  
**2013** BASQUE COUNTRY / SPAIN

**2014** COLOMBIA    **2015** FILIPPINES  
**2016** HONDURAS

**2017** CHINA      **2018** EGYPT  
**2019** TURKEY

**2020** PAKISTAN    **2021** AZERBAIDJAN  
**2022** COLOMBIA





"I have to state as a fact, but  
with great regret, that there are  
in Northern Ireland a number of  
solicitors who are unduly  
sympathetic to the cause of the  
IRA."

*Pat Finucane,  
killed 12  
February, 1989*

*Douglas Hogg  
17 January, 1989*

“Governments shall ensure that lawyers are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.”



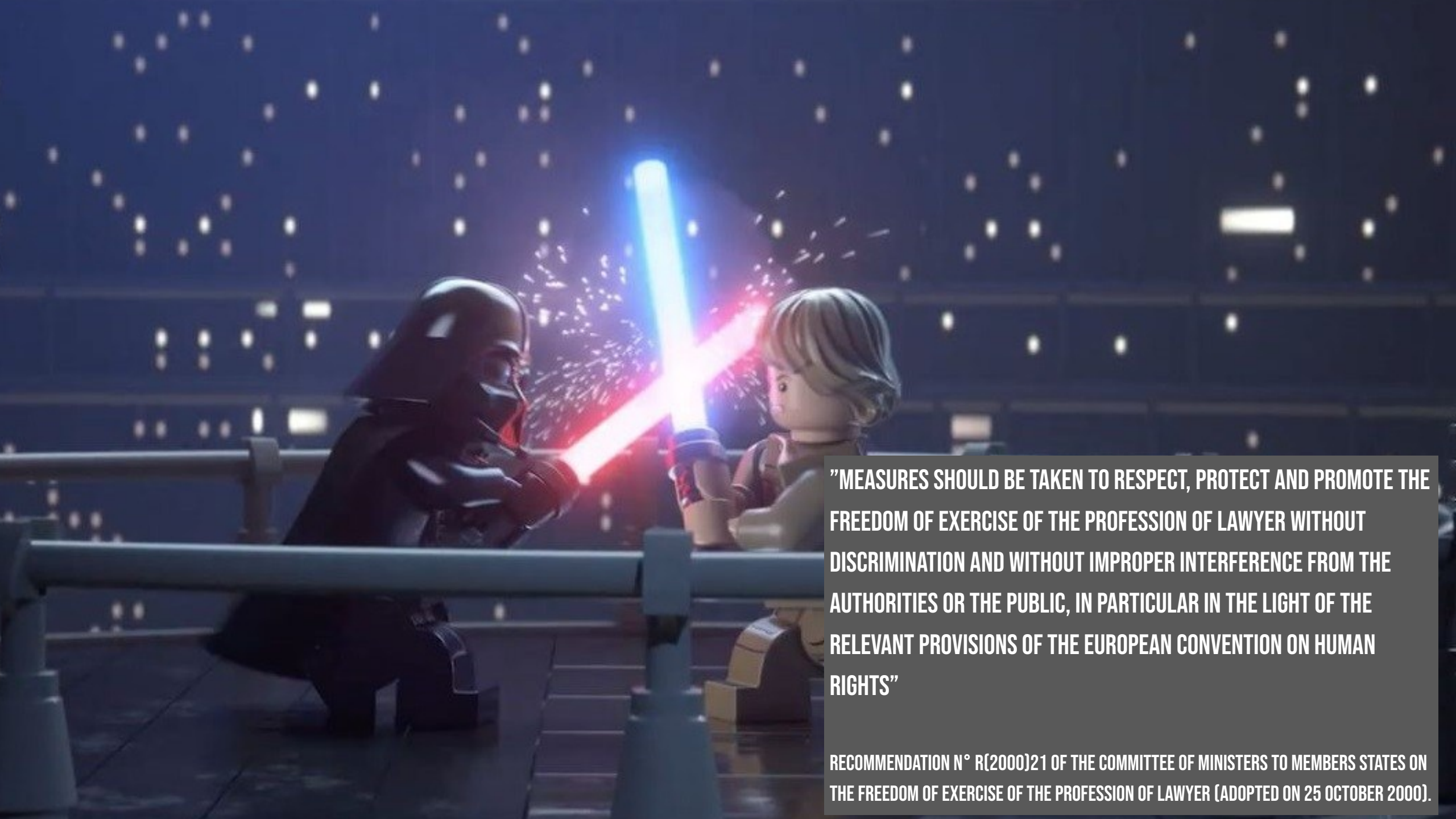
Basic Principle  
on the role of  
Lawyer  
(Havana  
principles,  
1990

Guarantees  
for the  
functioning of  
lawyers



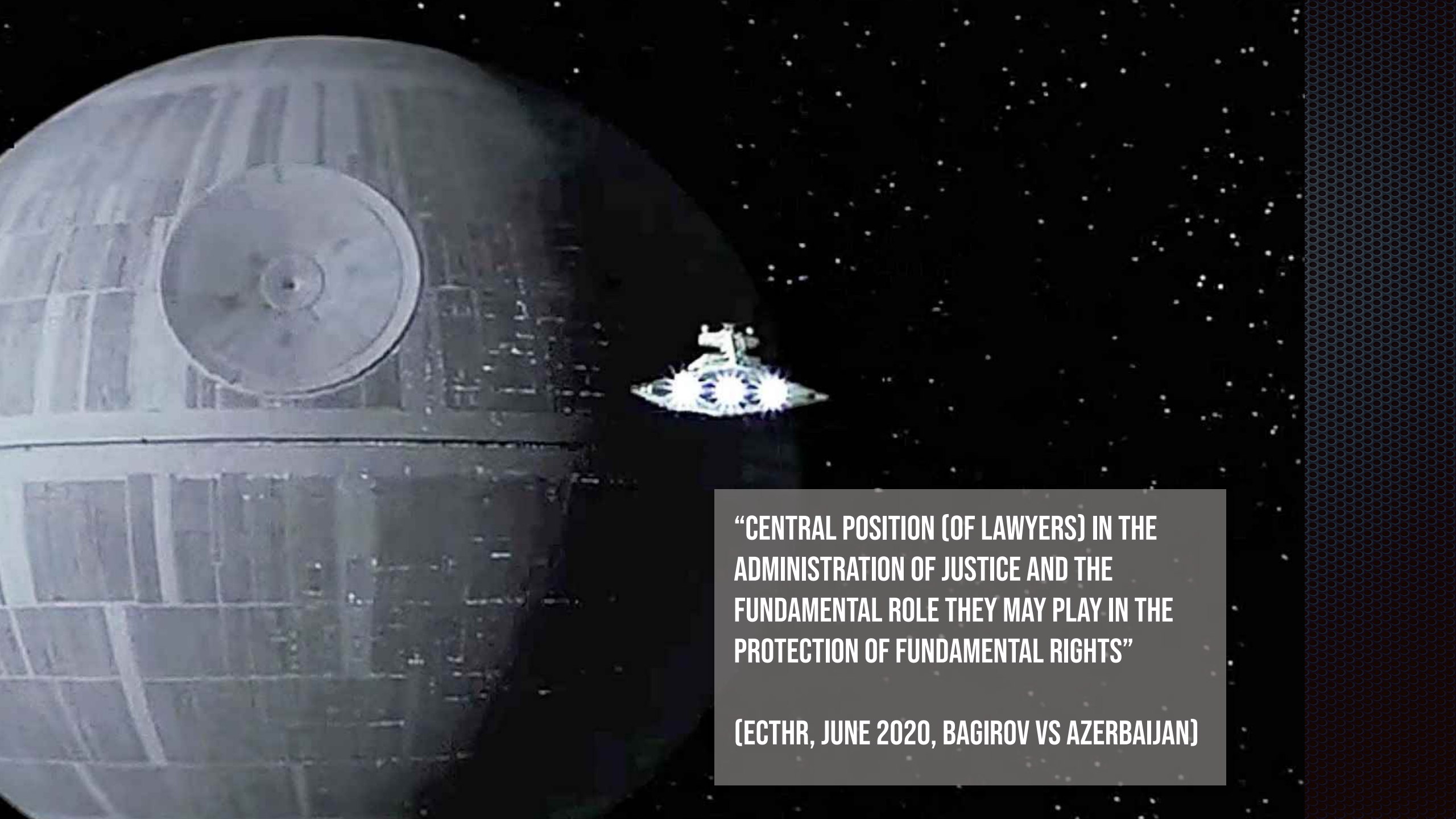
**“LAWYERS SHALL NOT BE IDENTIFIED WITH  
THEIR CLIENTS OR THEIR CLIENTS' CAUSES AS A  
RESULT OF DISCHARGING THEIR FUNCTIONS”**





**"MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO RESPECT, PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE FREEDOM OF EXERCISE OF THE PROFESSION OF LAWYER WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION AND WITHOUT IMPROPER INTERFERENCE FROM THE AUTHORITIES OR THE PUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR IN THE LIGHT OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS"**

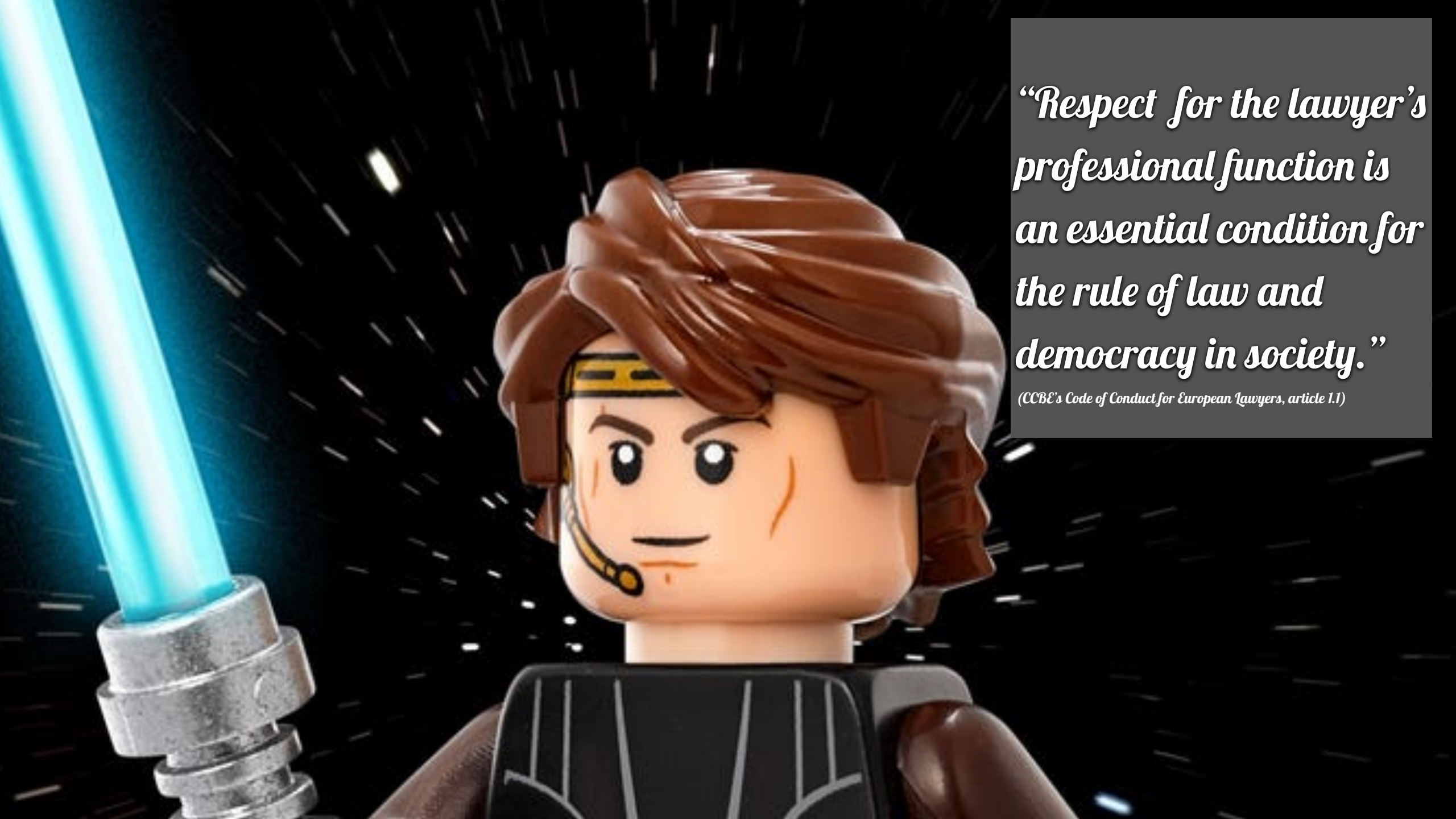
**RECOMMENDATION N° R(2000)21 OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBERS STATES ON THE FREEDOM OF EXERCISE OF THE PROFESSION OF LAWYER (ADOPTED ON 25 OCTOBER 2000).**



**“CENTRAL POSITION (OF LAWYERS) IN THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND THE  
FUNDAMENTAL ROLE THEY MAY PLAY IN THE  
PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS”**

**(ECTHR, JUNE 2020, BAGIROV VS AZERBAIJAN)**





*“Respect for the lawyer’s professional function is an essential condition for the rule of law and democracy in society.”*

*(CCBE’s Code of Conduct for European Lawyers, article 1.1)*



A person wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a blue striped tie. They are also wearing large, red boxing gloves. The background is dark.

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