

Ms. Laura Codruța Kövesi
Chief European Prosecutor
European Public Prosecutor's Office
Luxembourg

London, 12 November 2019

Subj.: congratulations on election as Chief EP

Madam Kövesi,

On behalf of the European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA), I would like to extend our warmest congratulations to you for your recent confirmation as the first Chief European Prosecutor.

Setting up this innovative institution in a way that enables it to fulfill its role in effectively investigating and prosecuting offences within its remit of competence is a challenge that we trust you will meet with success.

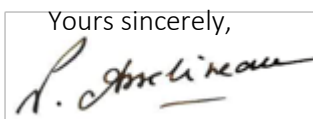
Such effectiveness may only be achieved by means of establishing and conducting proceedings which scrupulously follow the tenets of fairness in proceedings and a high level of commitment with the respect for the rights of those involved, including those of the defence.

The European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA) is an association of independent specialist defence lawyers. The association itself is wholly independent and free from outside interference. The primary purpose of the ECBA is to promote the fundamental rights of persons under criminal investigation, suspects, accused and convicted persons.

The ECBA is looking forward to your work in setting up this new institution and to cooperating with you by providing the views and experience of defence lawyers at this crucial initial stage of the process. We have established a working group formed of defence lawyers with long-standing experience in the Member States taking part in the EPPO and also non-participating Member States, both in the representation of suspects and accused, as well as the victims of crime. The working group has identified a number of areas in which good practices can and should be established, in order to enable the swift conduct of proceedings and the exercise of the rights of the defence in practice, and ensuring consistency in the different participating Member States.

In this regard, we would like to ask for a meeting at your earliest convenience, in order to personally congratulate you and bring these ideas to your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Vincent Asselineau