



**FBE – Intermediate Congress in London  
Legal Education Commission Meeting – 09/11/2017**

**Members present:**

- Presidency of the Commission: Constance Lubet - Madrid Bar Association
- Begoña Angulo Fuertes - Vizcaya Bar Association (Bilbao)
- Piotr Wieczorkiewicz - Warsaw Bar Association
- Georges Lekov – Sofia Bar Association
- Calin Viorel Iuga – Cluj Bar Association
- Coral Hill – The University of Law – Conference Director

**Agenda**

1. New Presidency of the Commission
2. Report on the I FBE International Oratory Competition of the FBE in Madrid.
3. Discussion on the organization of future competitions
4. New projects possibilities.

**1. New Presidency of Commission**

After holding the Presidency for two years, the Madrid Bar Association decided not to renew its mandate as they have taken the Presidency of the Human Rights Commission and also in order to allow another Bar to host the Commission.

The Presidency of the FBE sent a proposal to Ms. Dominique Attias, Vice President of the Paris Bar Association to offer the Paris Bar to host the Commission.

Vice President Dominique Attias formally accepted the proposal during the Presidency/Presidents of Commissions joint meeting that took place before this reunion.

**2. I International Oratory Competition in Madrid**

A quick report in the I International Oratory Competition in Madrid was made for those who were not present at the Presidency/ Presidents of Commissions joint meeting.

### **3. Discussion on the organization of future competitions**

The Cluj Bar indicated they would like to host a competition.

The Warsaw Bar said that they would like the Commission to organize more than one Competition in between two FBE Congresses, since the feedback from young lawyers is always very positive. They also said it would be interesting to do a follow up on the relationships network of the participants of the various competitions.

The Madrid Bar agreed that the networking aspect is an important aspect of these competitions, as they were able to notice during the Oratory Competition, allowing lawyers to exchange business cards with foreign lawyers they would not have met if not for the Competition.

The Cluj Bar added that diversity is important and that the competition should be organized in a different country each time in order to give the opportunity to more participants, especially regarding the financial aspect, since the living cost is very different depending on the city where the competition is organized and it is usually cheaper to travel to a closest location.

The Bilbao Bar agreed that the competition is a great opportunity for young lawyers.

The Warsaw Bar said they always publish a press release on the competition, as an encouragement for lawyers to participate.

They added that organizing these competitions through the Bar Associations allows lawyers from small law firms to participate and not only lawyers from big firms who do not need financial help and already have an international network.

The Cluj Bar said these competitions provide lawyers with an international experience, and allows younger lawyers to participate to FBE activities, as most FBE members and the participants to the FBE congresses are usually older. They insisted on the fact that the competition should always have a different location.

The main issue that was raised by all the members present is that the Bar Associations are not participating enough and only a few of them are sending participants.

### **4. Discussion on new projects possibilities**

The University of Law suggested to organize a paper based first round of the competition so that lawyers would be encouraged to participate and then to organize only the final round in person. It was however mentioned that the problem of financing the finalists' trip on-site would still exist.

They described a program that they were organizing at the University of Law called "London Legal visit", that includes a visit to the Supreme Court to attend a trial, a visit to a Barrister's chamber etc.. and which price is approximately 250 pounds.

They also mentioned a joint programme with a Spanish university, the IE University,

where the students can obtain both Spanish and English law degree and then choose to become a lawyer in England or in Spain, or even in both countries.

The Warsaw Bar described the short study trips they are organizing, which consist in 2 or 3 days and include a short introduction to polish law and judicial system, a visit to a court, a networking meeting...

They also mentioned an exchange programme with Oxford, to compare Common and Civil Law.

Finally, the possibility of organizing a European Student programme by applying for European Union funds was also mentioned.

## **Conclusion**

As a conclusion, it was agreed that the Commission should keep organizing competitions such as the Contract and Oratory Competitions as it was established that it was a great legal education activity for young lawyers. It was agreed that Cluj could be the next host of the competition. It was also decided that other projects should be discussed with the new presidency of the Commission, the Paris Bar Association.