



Press Release

Easy access to succession law:

www.successions-europe.eu

Brussels, 28 June 2010

Citizens of the European Union now have the opportunity to access information on succession law in every Member State in the language of their choice. The brainchild of the Notaries of Europe and of the support of the European Commission, the website www.successions-europe.eu is now online. It makes available to citizens any information necessary to follow and understand the steps involved in a succession. In short, it is the ideal tool to consult before contacting a notary.

In particular, citizens will be able to find answers to the following questions for any country they choose out of the 27 countries, in the 23 official languages of the European Union:

- Which is the competent authority? Who should I contact?
- Which law applies? Can I choose the law applicable to my succession?
- In the absence of a will, who inherits and how much?
- What are the restrictions on the freedom to dispose freely of one's estate by will?
- How is a will drawn up and can I have it registered?
- How and when does one become an heir?
- How much tax do I have to pay on the succession?

The straightforward and easy-to-use technical infrastructure enables citizens to, quickly and easily, find the information they are looking for. The content of the site will be regularly updated in order to follow both European and national legislative developments. In order to help legal practitioners increasingly faced with legal questions with cross-border elements, more detailed content is available in three languages (English, French and German) for all the countries of the Union.

According to **Mr Roberto Barone**, President of the Council of the European Union, the project sprouted from a simple observation: *"the number of citizens who form links with citizens of another State for professional or private reasons has continued to grow. This initiative is the first of its kind which responds to the willingness of the European institutions to contribute to better access to the rights of European citizens and which responds to their needs in terms of legal certainty. The Notaries of Europe are delighted to have been able to work on the project with the support of the Commission and to thus do their bit in the construction of a legal Europe"*.

Enjoy surfing on www.successions-europe.eu



For further information :
CNUE Office - Tel. : +32 2 513 95 29 - Email : info@cnue.be

The CNUE in brief :

The Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) is an official organism representing the notarial profession at the European institutions. Speaking for the profession, it handles negotiation and decision-making for all civil law notaries in the European Union.

The CNUE includes 21 notarial organisations in the European Union. The European notariats are represented in the CNUE by the presidents of the national notariats. The CNUE operates under the authority of a President, the CNUE's spokesperson, who has tenure for one year.

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Council of the Notariats of the European Union

CNUE asbl - Avenue de Cortenberg, 52 - B - 1000 Brussels - Tel. +32(0)2 513 95 29 - Fax +32(0)2 513 93 82 - E-mail : info@cnue.be - www.cnue.eu