

Protecting Attorney-Client Privilege in EU Criminal Proceedings

Training for Defence Lawyers

Vilnius, 4-5 March 2027

FACE-TO-FACE

EXCELLENCE IN EUROPEAN LAW

Speakers

Silvia Allegrezza (tbc), Associate Professor in Criminal Law, Department of Law, Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance, University of Luxembourg

Lorena Bachmaier, Professor, Complutense University of Madrid

María Barbancho, Criminal Lawyer, Member of the Committee of International Relations, ICAB, Barcelona

Chad Heimrich, Defence Lawyer, Knauer & Partner, Frankfurt

Raimundas Jurka, Professor, Mykolas Romeris University, Defence Lawyer, Vilnius

Holger Matt, Defence Lawyer and Honorary Professor, Goethe University Frankfurt

Key topics

- Recent European developments in legal professional privilege and attorney-client confidentiality
- Searches, seizures, digital material and independent filtering of privileged information
- Legal privilege under Regulation (EU) 2024/3011 on the transfer of criminal proceedings
- e-Evidence, cloud-held data and privileged communications
- Internal investigations, in-house counsel, remedies and admissibility
- The case for common EU minimum standards on legal privilege

Event number
327DT013

Organisers
ERA (Cornelia Riehle) in cooperation with the Lithuanian Bar Association

LIETUVOS ADVOKATŪRA

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Protecting Attorney-Client Privilege in EU Criminal Proceedings

Thursday, 4 March 2027

08:45 Arrival and registration of participants

09:00 **Welcome and introduction to the programme**
Representative of the Lithuanian Bar Association & Cornelia Riehle (ERA)

I. Legal Professional Privilege in Europe: Fundamental Rights, Digital Evidence and National Approaches

Chair: Cornelia Riehle

09:15 **The European legal framework in 2027**
- Recent ECtHR and CJEU developments;
- Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer
- Where privilege sits within the EU procedural-rights acquis

Lorena Bachmaier

10:00 Discussion

10:15 **From confidentiality to enforceable safeguards: the CJEU and Article 7 of the Charter**
- The concept of legal professional privilege in attorney-client communications: practical exceptions and their justification (including professional ethics, AML cases);
- The implications of C-432/23 and related case law for legal advice privileges;
- Compelled disclosure and procedural safeguards

Raimundas Jurka

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 **Implementing the CoE Convention on the Protection of the Profession of Lawyer: National Obligations and Minimum Standards**
- Minimum legislative and institutional measures required at national level to implement the Convention
- Ensuring effective safeguards for lawyers and the protection of legal professional privilege in practice

Holger Matt

12:15 Discussion

12:30 **National shortcomings and the experience in Spain**
Maria Barbancho

13:00 Lunch

14:00 **Digital evidence and privilege after August 2026**
- European Production and Preservation Orders
- Privileged professional data held by service providers
- Notification, contestation, filtering and remedies

14:45 Discussion

15:00 Coffee break

Chair: Silvia Allegrezza

15:30 **Legal privilege and the transfer of criminal proceedings**
- Applicable legal professional privilege rules when criminal proceedings are transferred between Member States under Regulation (EU) 2024/3011
- Treatment of previously seized material, transmission of privileged information and differences in national rules on confidentiality, waiver and exceptions
- Available remedies and the role of defence counsel in safeguarding legal professional privilege

Objective

This conference will examine how legal professional privilege (LPP) and attorney-client privilege (ACP) operate in EU criminal proceedings in 2027, with particular attention to cross-border investigations, digital evidence, transferred proceedings and the protection of lawyers themselves. It will combine recent European legal developments with comparative national practices and practical case studies.
The central question will be whether divergent national rules on legal privilege can be reconciled with increasingly integrated EU criminal justice cooperation while safeguarding defence rights, confidentiality and the effective investigation of crime.

About the Project

Training defence lawyers with special regard to European criminal law has gained more and more importance in recent years. Hence, this seminar is part of a large-scale project co-financed by the European Commission entitled “European Criminal Law for Defence Lawyers”. Fifteen interactive, practice-oriented activities will be implemented within this project ranging from face-to-face seminars and conferences to webinars and eLearning courses. For more information, see: https://training-for-defence.era.int/

Who should attend?

Defence lawyers, who are citizens of eligible EU Member States participating in the EU Justice Programme (Denmark does not participate), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and Ukraine.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Venue

AC Hotel Vilnius
Vasario 16-osios Street No 5
Vilnius
Lithuania, LT-01106

CPD

ERA’s programmes meet the standard requirements for recognition as Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Participation in the full programme of this event corresponds to **10 CPD hours**.
A certificate of participation for CPD purposes with indication of the number of training hours completed will be issued on request. CPD certificates must be requested at the latest 14 days after the event.

Chad Heimrich

16:15 Discussion

16:30 End of Day One

19:00 Dinner offered by the organisers

Friday, 5 March 2027

II. Protecting Legal Privilege in Practice: Safeguards, Remedies and Reform

Chair: Cornelia Riehle

09:00 **The perspective of prosecutors and judicial cooperation bodies**
Operational safeguards for LPP/ACP in complex cross-border investigations, including EPPO cases, joint investigation teams, transferred proceedings and digital evidence

11:00 **Protecting professional privilege in investigations: safeguards, remedies and admissibility**
Professional privilege in criminal and financial investigations, including comparative approaches to administrative and criminal enforcement. Safeguards against unlawful access to privileged information, available remedies and the consequences for admissibility of evidence.
Silvia Allegrezza

10:30 Coffee break

11:45 **Panel discussion: do we now need minimum EU standards on legal professional privilege?**
A structured discussion on a common definition, protected persons and material, in-house counsel, waiver, searches and seizures, digital evidence, transferred proceedings, independent filtering, remedies and minimum procedural guarantees
Lorena Bachmaier, Maria Barbancho, Raimundas Jurka, Holger Matt (chair)

12:30 **Concluding remarks and key takeaways**
Identify a short set of operational principles that could inform practice and future EU action
Lorena Bachmaier and Holger Matt

12:45 End of the seminar

For programme updates: **www.era.int**. Programme may be subject to amendment.



Times indicated refer to the local time in Vilnius

Your contacts



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Save the date

ECtHR Criminal Justice Update 2026
Online, 7-8 December 2026

Summer Course on European Criminal Justice
14 - 18 June 2027

Application

Protecting Attorney-Client Privilege in EU Criminal Proceedings

Vilnius, 4-5 March 2027 / Event number: 327DT013

Terms and conditions of participation

Selection

1. Participation is only open to lawyers in private practice from eligible EU Member States (Denmark does not participate in this EU Justice Programme), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, and Ukraine.
2. The number of available places is limited. Participation will be subject to a selection procedure. Selection will be based on professional eligibility, nationality, and then "first come, first served."
3. The following partners have reserved the right to nominate participants. Interested defence lawyers must apply via them by 7 December 2026: The Barcelona Bar Association (ICAB); the Lithuanian Bar Association; the Portuguese Bar Association; the Bar Association of Albania; the Czech Bar Association; the German Bar Association; the Latvian Collegium of Sworn Advocates; the Bar Association of Moldova; the National Association of Romanian Bars; the Bar Association of the Republic Srpska; the Ukrainian National Bar Association.
4. Other applications can only be submitted before 7 December 2026.
5. A response will be sent to every applicant after this deadline. We advise you not to book any travel or accommodation before you receive our confirmation.

Registration Fee

6. €130, including documentation, coffee breaks, lunch, and dinner.
7. Five participants nominated by the Lithuanian Bar Association for this conference are not required to pay a fee.

Travel and Accommodation Expenses

8. Participants will receive a fixed contribution towards their travel and accommodation expenses and are asked to book their own travel and accommodation. The condition for payment of this contribution is to sign all attendance sheets at the event. The amount of the contribution will be determined by the guidelines set out below, which are based on the distance from the participant's place of work to the seminar location and will not take account of the participant's actual travel and accommodation costs.
9. Travel costs from outside Lithuania: Participants travelling between 50-399 km one way from the place of work to the venue will receive contributions according to the EU's respective unit costs. A fixed sum of €365 is paid for travel of a distance of 400-1600 km one way from the place of work to the venue. A fixed sum of €429 is paid for travel over a distance of 1601 km one way from the place of work to the venue. The distance must be calculated from their place of work to the seminar location.
10. For those travelling within Lithuania, the contribution for travel is fixed at €29 (for a distance between 50km and 399 km). Please note that no contribution will be paid for travel under 50 km one-way.
11. Accommodation costs: International participants will receive a fixed contribution of €94 per night for up to two nights' accommodation. National participants travelling more than 50km one-way will receive a fixed contribution of €94 per night for one night's accommodation.
12. Successful applicants will be sent the relevant claim form and information on how to obtain payment of the contribution to their expenses. Please note that no payment is possible if the registered participant cancels their participation for any reason.
13. Participants nominated by ICAB, the Portuguese Bar Association (Ordem dos Advogados), or the Lithuanian Bar Association (LA-LT) shall receive their travel and accommodation contributions directly from their respective bar associations.

Participation

14. Participation in the entire seminar is required and participants will be asked to sign attendance sheets daily.
15. A list of participants including each participant's address will be made available to all participants unless ERA receives written objection from the participant no later than one week prior to the beginning of the event.
16. The participant will be asked to give permission for their address and other relevant information to be stored in ERA's database to provide information about future ERA events, publications and/or other developments in the participant's area of interest.
17. A certificate of attendance will be sent electronically after the seminar.

Hotel recommendations

18. ERA neither provides nor endorses local accommodation recommendations. Kindly consult available online booking platforms.

Cancellation

19. If notice of cancellation is received by the Academy later than one month before the event, a handling fee of €40 will be charged. Travel and accommodation expenses already incurred will not be reimbursed.

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Venue

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Lithuania, LT-01106

Language

English

For more information

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