

Law, a common good of the G7 countries

Open letter from the G7 Bar associations to the leaders gathered in Évian

Dear G7 leaders,

At a time when geopolitical tensions are escalating, economic rivalries are intensifying, and technological upheavals are transforming our societies at an unprecedented pace, we, representatives of the G7 Bar associations, wish to reaffirm a conviction that unites us: law is the foremost common good of our democracies.

Democracies do not survive by the sheer strength of their armed forces, the power of their economies, or the speed of their innovations. They thrive because they rest on shared, predictable, and respected rules - the rule of law.

It is the rule of law that guarantees the independence of the judiciary, protects fundamental freedoms, secures economic exchange, and sustains citizens' trust in institutions. That trust is also a driver of prosperity: it fosters investment, innovation, entrepreneurship, and trade. Law does not merely protect our societies; it helps generate the wealth that enables their development.

It is urgent to recall that without these shared rules, there can be no trust. Today, that trust is undermined by rising international tensions, challenges to certain mechanisms of cooperation, the rapid emergence of technologies whose effects frequently outpace existing legal frameworks, and transnational threats that know no borders. Faced with these challenges, the temptation to prioritise short-term effectiveness at the expense of principles is great. That would be a mistake.

Law is neither a luxury nor a constraint. It is the very condition of democratic stability and sustainable economic development. It allows us to protect without arbitrariness, to innovate without surrendering freedoms, and to cooperate without sacrificing national sovereignty. It secures economical trade, locally and internationally, secures investment, also at international level, guarantees freedom of contract but also entrepreneurial freedom. It is also the common language through which our democracies can act together despite their differences.

For these reasons, we call on the leaders of the G7 to make the rule of law an explicit and concrete political priority. Responses to crises, whatever their nature, must remain fully compatible with the requirements of justice, freedom, and fairness. Likewise, international cooperation must be strengthened so that today's major threats are confronted in a manner consistent with the principles that underpin our democracies.

Lawyers stand ready to contribute to this effort, as they do every day.

Because they defend citizens' rights on a daily basis, support businesses, and uphold fundamental freedoms, they know that trust cannot be decreed: it is built through strong institutions, respected rules, and an independent judiciary.

In Évian, you have the opportunity to reaffirm what unites the G7 democracies beyond their immediate interests. In a world defined by uncertainty, law remains our most precious common good. It protects our freedoms, fosters trust, and creates the conditions for lasting prosperity. Let us preserve it. Let us strengthen it. Let us make it the compass of our collective action.

Signatories:

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