Cross-border legal relationships and their consequences (e.g. divorce, custody decisions and their enforcement abroad, maintenance) confront family lawyers with complex legal problems. New legal acts at the European and international level affect their daily work. Legal practitioners are therefore required to deal ever more with legal questions arising from cross-border family and parental responsibility cases.

The CCBE is organising, in partnership with ERA (Academy of European Law), an important meeting on the practice of European family law with the following format:

- Roundtables on Thursday afternoon to provide thorough information on European texts and proposals;
- Workshops and discussions on Friday in order to consider practical cases, to debate and to exchange know-how.

This event is organised by family law professionals for family law professionals.

On-line registration and further information regarding accommodations and the location of the conference room are available on the CCBE website - www.ccbe.eu
ccbe@ccbe.eu - T: +32 (0)2 234 65 10

The seminar fee of 320 € includes the lunch on 12 December as well as coffee breaks, technical material, interpretation, rent of the rooms and administrative costs.

Venue
MCE (Management Centre Europe)
rue de l’Aqueduc 118
1050 BRUSSELS
Thursday, 11 December 2008
Conference

13.00 - 14.00  Registration
14.00 - 14.15  Welcome address by the CCBE President
14.15 - 14.30  Welcome address by an ERA representative
14.30 - 16.00  Brussels II bis Regulation
               Moderator: Béatrice WEISS-GOUT
                 ● Conflict of laws: Which jurisdiction for divorce?
                   — Thalia KRUGER (South Africa)
                 ● Which jurisdiction for parental responsibility?
                   (general rules and rules with regard to child abduction)
                   — Peter Mc ELEAVY (Scotland)
                 ● Enforcement of decisions concerning children
                   — Peter Mc ELEAVY (Scotland)

16.00 - 16.15  Coffee break
16.15 - 16.45  Brussels I Regulation
               Moderator: Béatrice WEISS-GOUT
                 ● Cyril NOURISSAT (France)

16.45 - 18.30  Draft proposals
                 ● Maintenance obligations
                   — Diana WALLIS (European Parliament)
                 ● Rome III
                   — Fernando Rui Paulino PEREIRA (Council of the European Union)
                 ● Mediation
                   — Fernando Rui Paulino PEREIRA (Council of the European Union)
                 ● Matrimonial regimes
                   — Olivier TELL (European Commission)

Friday, 12 December 2008
Workshops

9.00 - 10.30  Practical Workshops
  ● Brussels II bis—Practical divorce cases
    [with 2 interpreters]
    — Hélène POIVEY-LECLERCQ (France)
    — Frederic RENSTRÖM (Sweden)
  ● Overview and mutual recognition of partnerships in Europe [in English]
    — Richard FRIMSTON (United Kingdom)
    — Mia REICH-SJÖGREN (Sweden)

10.30 - 11.00  Coffee break
11.00 - 12.30  Workshops which look to the future
  ● Future of family contracts, comparative law and European law
    [with 2 interpreters]
    — Luis ZARRALUQUI (Spain)
    — Guido ALPA (Italy)
    — Michel BENICHOU (France)
  ● Maintenance obligations: conflicts of laws, conflicts of jurisdictions,
    enforcement of judgments (The Hague Convention and the future
    European regulation) [in French]
    — Philippe LORTIE (The Hague Conference)
    — Marina BLITZ (Belgium)
    — Marie SALORD (Permanent Representation of France to the EU)

12.30 - 14.00  Lunch
14.00 - 15.30  Practical Workshops
  ● Brussels II bis and The Hague Convention
    (illegal removal of children) / Practical cases
    [with 2 interpreters]
    — Véronique CHAUVEAU (France)
    — Anne Marie HUTCHINSON (United Kingdom)
    — Liis HALLIK (Estonia)
  ● Divorce under common law and under civil law: convergences and differences
    [in English & in French]
    — Tim AMOS (United Kingdom)
    — Isabelle REIN-LESCASTEREYRES (France)
    — Béatrice WEISS-GOUT (France)

15.30 - 15.45  Coffee break
15.45 - 17.15  Workshops which look to the future
  ● The child in the proceedings: hearing of the child and other issues,
    European and international conventions
    [with 2 interpreters]
    — Eva BECKER (Germany)
    — Kerstin NIETHAMMER-JÜRGENS (Germany)
    — Malgorzata KOZUCH (Poland)
  ● Alternative dispute resolution: comparative law and European law
    [in English]
    — Charlotte BRADLEY (United Kingdom)
    — Rachael KELSEY (United Kingdom)

17.30  Conclusions
      Reflection of the CCBE on the role of the lawyer in a European family
      by Béatrice WEISS-GOUT

Translation will be available in English and French in the plenary sessions; otherwise language in the workshops is as indicated on this programme.