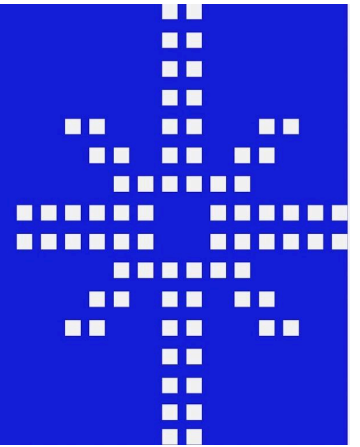


European Legal
Sovereignty Day
24.06.2026 Brussels



European Legal Sovereignty Day

24 June 2026 - Brussels

The **European Legal Sovereignty Day** is a one-day European conference dedicated to a central question: **how can we ensure that European law remains sovereign, effective and legitimate in the age of artificial intelligence?**

As AI increasingly transforms legal practice, access to law, the delivery of legal services and the functioning of justice systems, the purpose of this event is to move beyond a purely technological debate. The conference will examine the political, legal, economic, technical and ethical conditions required to build concrete European legal sovereignty.

Co-organised by the **Conseil national des barreaux**, with the support of the **DBF**, the **French-speaking section of the Brussels Bar** and the **Legal Data Space**, the event will bring together legal professionals, European institutions, judges, researchers, bar representatives and regulatory stakeholders.

The day will be structured around four key questions: why continental law systems must be preserved; how they can become visible, usable and operable in the digital environment; what human, legal and ethical limits should govern legal AI; and what European infrastructure is needed to scale legal sovereignty.

Programme of the Day

Time	Session
09:30 – 10:00	Opening session by Marie Dupont, President of the French-speaking section of the Brussels Bar, Julie

	Couturier, President of the CNB, and a representative of the European Parliament
10:00 – 11:00	Block 1 - Why must continental law systems be preserved in the age of AI?
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:15	Block 2 - How can continental law systems become visible, usable and operable in the digital age?
12:15 – 14:00	Lunch time
14:00 – 14:15	Opening session by Nicolas Guillou, Judge at the International Criminal Court.
14:15 – 15:30	Block 3 - What human, legal and ethical limits should govern legal AI?
15h30 - 15h45	Julie Couturier's plea for a human guarantee in legal AI
15:45 – 16:15	Break
16:15 – 17:15	Block 4 - What concrete European infrastructure is needed to scale legal sovereignty?
17:15 – 17:30	Closing session

From 17:30	Cocktail and informal exchanges
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Opening Session

09:30 – 10:00

The day will open with an institutional session dedicated to the democratic, professional and European challenges of legal sovereignty in the age of AI.

With contributions from:

- **Marie Dupont**, President of the French-speaking section of the Brussels Bar;
- **Julie Couturier**, President of the Conseil national des barreaux;
- **Chloé Ridel**, Member of the European Parliament, by video message.

Block 1

Why must continental law systems be preserved in the age of AI?

A discussion on legal sovereignty, civil law traditions, normative autonomy, and the risks of legal and cultural marginalisation in AI-driven environments.

10:00 – 11:00

This first block will set the conceptual and political foundations of the day. Artificial intelligence does not merely transform legal tools; it also affects how law is searched, interpreted, prioritised and made accessible.

Continental law systems will be approached as living legal traditions, grounded in codification, the hierarchy of norms, civil legal reasoning and the protection of fundamental rights. In the age of AI, these traditions may be weakened by the dominance of external legal models and the concentration of value around American private technological actors.

The discussion will therefore focus on what Europe must preserve: a civil legal culture and the economic advantage required for a sovereign legal market.

Expected speakers:

- **Philippe Dupichot**, President of the Henri Capitant Association; Member of the Paris Bar; Professor at the Sorbonne Law School (University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne); Agrégé of the Law Faculties; on

the place of the civil law tradition in the age of AI, the non-neutrality of technological systems, and the future of European legal sovereignty.

- **Aurore Hyde**, Professor of Private Law and Criminal Sciences at the University of Reims and expert member of the Foundation for Continental Law, on continental legal reasoning, the role of jurists in democratic societies, and the risks of delegating normative authority to AI systems.
- **Giovanni De Gregorio**, PLMJ Chair in Law and Technology at Católica Global School of Law, « From regulation to enforcement: making European legal sovereignty effective in the age of AI» (by video message).
- **Bruno Deffains**, Professor of Law and Economics at Paris Panthéon-Assas University, and **Pierre Berlioz**, Professor of Private Law at Université Paris Cité, on “Who Captures the Value of Law in the Age of AI? Structuring a Sovereign European Legal Market”

Moderated by **Martin Bussy** (PhD in Economics, specializing in innovation economics and the economics of legal markets), Coordinator of the Legal Data Space.

Block 2 How can continental law systems become visible, usable and operable in the digital age?

A discussion on legal data, standards, semantic structuring, interoperability, and the technical conditions required for civil law systems to be effectively embedded in digital environments.

11:15 – 12:15

The second block will address the concrete conditions under which law can exist and operate in the digital environment. Publishing legal texts is no longer sufficient. To be effectively taken into account by digital systems and AI tools, law must be accessible, structured, documented, interoperable and understandable by machines, without losing its legal meaning.

This session will examine the transition from merely digitised law to law that is genuinely usable in digital environments. It will cover legal standards, metadata, knowledge bases, legal knowledge graphs, public legal data services and new forms of governance for digital legal uses.

Expected speakers:

- **Edyta Posel-Częścik**, Head of the EUR-Lex and Legal Information Unit at the Publications Office of the European Union, on « how EU law is made accessible, structured, identified, multilingual, interoperable and reusable through EUR-Lex, ELI, APIs, metadata and standards »
- **Monica Palmirani**, Professor of Legal Informatics and Technology Law at the University of Bologna, « Legal Standards for Preserving Legal Knowledge in the AI Era »
- **Ioana Mazilescu**, Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), on « initiatives at EU level to promote digitalisation in the justice sector, sharing contract terms and judicial data, supporting new tools such as AI for justice and automated contracting. »

- **Primavera De Filippi**, Research Director at the CNRS and Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, on dynamic licensing, traceability, and digital rights governance as foundations for actionable law and a trusted European AI ecosystem.

Moderated by **Emilie Viard**, Legal Data Space Luxembourg Partner, specialist in legal ontologies and legal knowledge representation

Lunch Time

12:15 – 14:00

Afternoon Opening Session

Opening session by Nicolas Guillou, Judge at the International Criminal Court 14:00 – 14:15

The afternoon will be introduced by **Nicolas Guillou**, Judge at the International Criminal Court, who will address issues of justice, responsibility and human safeguards in the use of digital technologies.

Block 3 What human, legal and ethical limits should govern legal AI?

A discussion on responsibility, professional ethics, legal advice, judicial uses of AI, and the European notion of a human guarantee in legal AI.

14:15 – 15:45

The third block will respond directly to the core concerns of legal professionals and judicial institutions. Legal AI cannot be understood solely as a tool for efficiency. Its use raises fundamental questions of responsibility, professional secrecy, human oversight, independence, the quality of legal reasoning and respect for fundamental rights.

This session will examine the conditions under which AI can be considered legitimate in legal and judicial practice: who controls the tool, with what expertise, at what stage, with what traceability, what responsibility and what professional safeguards. It will place at the centre of the discussion the idea of an effective human guarantee, adapted to the practical realities of legal professions and justice systems.

- Moderated by **Raphaël Dana**, IT Expert at the CCBE, elected member of the Paris Bar Council and lawyer specializing in technology law, data protection and cybersecurity.

Expected speakers:

- **François Girault**, President of the Foresight and Innovation Commission of the Conseil national des barreaux (CNB), on AI-lawyer hybrid services and the evolving boundaries of legal advice in the age of AI.
- **Haffide Boulakras**, Deputy Director of the French National School for the Judiciary (ENM) and Chair of the European Judicial Training Network's Working Group on Digitalisation, on the role of human judgment, accountability, and oversight in AI-assisted judicial decision-making.
- **Elena Yurkina**, Head of Unit, Human Rights and Justice Cooperation at the Council of Europe, on "European Standards for Trustworthy Legal AI: Human Oversight and Fundamental Rights".
- **Fatoumata Brouard**, Attorney at the Paris Bar, DPO and Legal Operations specialist at L'Atelier Légal; AI assistant publisher within the Legal Data Space ecosystem and member of the Scientific Committee for the Human Guarantee Framework for Legal AI. She will speak on the topic: "How Can We Ensure the Effective Implementation of the Human Guarantee in Legal AI?"
- **Florian Ernotte** : Belgian lawyer specialised in technology law, lecturer in AI law at HEC Liège, and expert on the legal challenges of the digital age. He will speak on the topic: "Human in the Loop": What Exactly Is in That Loop?

This will be followed by a plea by **Julie Couturier**, President of the CNB, in favour of a human guarantee in legal AI, closing the discussions of the third block.

Block 4 What concrete European infrastructure is needed to scale legal sovereignty?

A discussion on trusted legal data infrastructures, intermediation models, technological dependencies, and the conditions for building a sovereign European legal data-sharing ecosystem.

16:15 – 17:15

The third session will address the core concerns of legal professionals and judicial institutions. Legal AI cannot be viewed solely as a tool for efficiency. Its use raises important questions regarding liability, professional secrecy, human oversight, independence, the quality of legal reasoning, and the protection of fundamental rights.

This session will examine the conditions under which AI can be considered legitimate in legal practice: who controls the tool, on the basis of which competencies, with what level of traceability, accountability, and ethical safeguards. It will also explore the concept of meaningful human oversight, adapted to the professional requirements of the legal and judicial sectors.

Expected speakers:

- **Zacharie Laïk**, co-founder of Legal Hunter and partner of the Legal Data Space initiative, A presentation on the topic: "Open Legal Data in Europe: Where Do We Stand? How Can Legal Data Be Reused for AI?"

- **Wahid Rofagha**, National Communities Manager at Gaia-X and expert in European digital ecosystems, will speak on machine-readable contracts.
- **Olivier Dion**, Research Associate at Digital New Deal, engineer specialised in new technologies., on “The Infrastructure of Trust: Data Spaces, AI and the IPCEI Initiative”
- **Alain Pilette**, Deputy Director for Justice at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, on judicial data sharing, e-Justice cooperation, and the legal and technical foundations of a future European Legal Data Space.

Moderated by **Thomas Saint-Aubin**, Coordinator of the Legal Data Space, expert in legal innovation, data governance and sovereign digital infrastructures.

Closing Session 17:15 – 17:30

Concluding remarks and perspectives for further European cooperation on the governance of legal AI and legal data.

The closing session will return to the central thread of the day: Europe cannot accept legal AI without identifiable responsibility, professional and ethical safeguards, and an effective human guarantee.

17:30 - 18:30 : Open Networking Cocktail