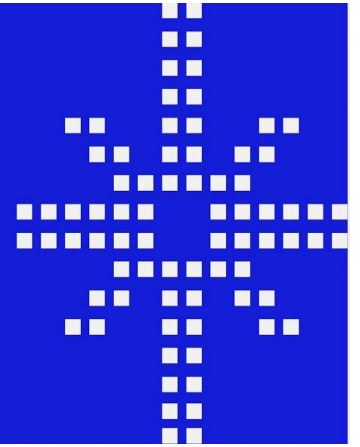


European Legal  
Sovereignty Day  
24.06.2026 Brussels



# 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, legal reasoning, the protection of fundamental rights and the specific role of the jurist. In the age of AI, these traditions may be weakened by the standardisation of legal reasoning, the dominance of external legal models and the concentration of value around private technological actors.

The discussion will therefore focus on what Europe must preserve: a method of legal reasoning, a conception of law, a legal culture and the economic conditions required for a sovereign European legal market.

Expected speakers:

- **Philippe Dupichot**, President of the Association Henri Capitant;
- **Aurore Hyde**, Professor of Private Law and Criminal Sciences at the University of Reims, on the continental way of thinking about law and the role of the jurist in the age of algorithmic calculation;
- **Giovanni De Gregorio**, Professor of Law and Technology at Católica Global School of Law, on the effectiveness of European legal sovereignty in the face of AI-related challenges;
- **Bruno Deffains**, Professor of Law and Economics at Paris Panthéon-Assas University, and **Pierre Berlioz**, Professor of Private Law at Université Paris Cité, on the capture of legal value and the structuring of a sovereign European legal market.

## 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:

- **Alain Pilette**, Deputy Director for Justice, Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs, Council of the European Union, on e-Justice and European judicial cooperation;
- **Edyta Posel-Częścik**, Head of the “EUR-Lex and Legal Information” Unit at the Publications Office of the European Union, on the role of a European public service for legal data;
- **Monica Palmirani**, Professor at the University of Bologna and specialist in legal standards and AI applied to legislation, on preserving legal knowledge in the age of AI;
- **Primavera De Filippi**, CNRS Research Director and Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard, on the transition from structured law to actionable law, including dynamic licensing, traceability and digital governance of uses.

## 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.

Expected speakers:

- **François Girault**, President of the Prospective and Innovation Commission of the Conseil national des barreaux, on hybrid services combining AI and lawyers;
- **Haffide Boulakras**, Deputy Director of the École nationale de la magistrature, on the role of the human being in judicial decision-making in the age of AI;
- **Elena Yurkina**, Council of Europe, on European standards for trustworthy legal AI that respects fundamental rights and the rule of law;
- **Anna Drozd**, Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe, on the response of European bars to AI and the human guarantee;
- **Nathalie Devillier**, expert in AI governance, liability and ethics of emerging technologies, on the operational conditions required to move from principles to effective safeguards.

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 final block will focus on the infrastructures needed to make European legal sovereignty durable and operational. The issue is not only to define principles, but to build the technical, institutional and economic conditions that allow those principles to be applied at scale.

The discussion will address current technological dependencies, language models, cloud infrastructures, interoperability standards, digital commons, open legal data, ontologies and European data spaces. Particular attention will be given to the role of the **Legal Data Space** as a trusted infrastructure for the European legal sector.

This session will take the form of short contributions designed to encourage a diversity of perspectives and exchanges with the audience.

Expected speakers:

- **Thomas Saint-Aubin**, Legal Data Space, on the development of a European data intermediary for the legal sector;
- **Me Fatoumata Brouard**, on augmented legal advice, professional secrecy and effective lawyer oversight;
- **Olivier Dion**, Digital New Deal, on European industrial AI infrastructures and the conditions required for scaling up.
- Other speakers possible for this panel.

## 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.

This final sequence will identify possible next steps for European cooperation on legal sovereignty, the protection of legal professions, the effectiveness of fundamental rights and the development of trusted digital infrastructures.