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## “EU Law at the Service of Citizens” 4<sup>th</sup> Notaries of Europe Congress

5 - 7 October 2017, Santiago de Compostela

### Notaries of Europe gather in Spain to improve consumer protection in the digital environment and company mobility

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**Brussels, 3 October 2017** – From 5 to 7 October, notaries from 22 EU countries will gather in the Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela for the Congress organised by the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) on “EU Law at the Service of Citizens”. The current President of the CNUE, which represents more than 40,000 notaries in Europe, is a Spanish notary, Mr José Manuel García Collantes.

The opening ceremony will take place on Thursday 5 October at 11.30.

More than 600 notaries will attend this fourth Congress, along with senior officials of the European and Spanish institutions, representatives of consumer and business organisations and other legal practitioners. During several roundtables, they will discuss and present proposals to the European authorities on two topics: protecting citizens and consumers in the digital environment and transferring company seat in the European Union.

#### **The first topic will focus on consumer protection**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Congress will discuss ways to increase the certainty of consumers and businesses in the digital environment and the role that notaries can play in this respect. The participants will debate possible measures to be adopted that would guarantee the certainty of electronic signatures, virtual identities, electronic addresses and the use of new technologies such as blockchain. They also want to address the issue of defining and regulating digital heritage.

#### **The second topic will address the transfer of companies**

The participants will discuss proposals for a possible directive on the transfer of company seat in the European Union. A directive on the subject would put an end to the legal uncertainties that affect European companies. There is currently no harmonised European framework for the cross-border transfer of seat. A transfer depends on national laws, taking into account the principles established by the Court of Justice of the European Union. A future directive should provide for appropriate procedural rules and protect workers, minority shareholders and creditors. The issue of the cross-border transfer of seat is relevant, particularly since the UK's decision to leave the European Union. Many companies currently based in the United Kingdom are planning to transfer their seats to another Member State in order to maintain their status as European companies.

Consult the Congress programme at [www.notariesofeurope-congress2017.eu](http://www.notariesofeurope-congress2017.eu)

Congress Facebook page: @notariescongress

Congress Twitter account: @NotaryCongress and #NotariesCongress

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### **The CNUE in brief:**

*The Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) is an official body representing the notarial profession in dealings with the European institutions. Speaking for the profession, it expresses the joint decisions of its members to the institutions of the European Union. The CNUE includes 22 notarial organisations in the European Union, representing over 40,000 notaries and 200,000 staff. The European notariats are represented in the CNUE by the presidents of the national notariats. The CNUE operates under the authority of a President, the CNUE's spokesperson, who has tenure for one year.*

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