

The Sustainability in the Ethical Codes of Regulated Professions

On the 25th of November, Union Professional, the Spanish Interprofessional Member of CEPLIS, organised, in the context of the 12th Spanish Congress of Environment, an event dedicated to the Sustainability in the Codes of Regulated Professions. This event featured contributions from various Councils and Regulatory Bodies, members of Union Professional, and experts in ethics, economy and environment. We are pleased to share with you their report on the event in question.



From left to right : Emilio Cerdá, Carlos Carnicer (UP President and CEPLIS Vice-President) and José Manuel R. Uribes

The event was launched by a speech of the President of UP and Vice-President of CEPLIS, **Mr. Carnicer-Diez** who has pointed out the steady commitment of Union Professional towards the Environment, proven by the organization of a biennial Congress on Environmental issues since 1992.

Amongst the speakers, **Mr. Gaetano Stella**, President of Confprofessioni and Vice-President of CEPLIS, our Italian interprofessional Member, stressed the importance of such an event, since *"it contributes to the affirmation of the principles that form the basis of Liberal Professions"*. Mr. Stella emphasized that *"Professionals have always been committed to the promotion of ethics, responsibility and duty towards citizenship thanks to an ever evolving regulatory environment"*

When we talk about preserving the environment, *"we talk about fundamental rights"* underlined **Jose Manuel Rodriguez Uribes**, Deputy Director of the Department of Ethics for the Private sector and the Professions within Carlos III University. The fact

that environmental rights are linked to human needs entails that *“they should be defended on a basis of humanist ethics.”* It is thus necessary to promote good practices. The professions and their organizations are also called to contribute to the *“construction of ecological rights”*. Hence, environmental provisions should appear in their codes of conduct, keeping in mind that *“if development is not sustainable, it cannot be development.”*

After this last speech, all the regulatory bodies present were invited to share their point of views on the issue. On behalf of the College of Physicians, the President of the Ethics Committee, **Marcos Antonio Galiana** stressed that progress on environmental matters could only become a reality if a compromise is reached between customer, regulatory bodies and public authorities, in order to allow the compliance with ethical, environmental and profitability needs. **Javier Lorén**, President of General Council of Agricultural Engineers, he agreed on the *“need for a just global and sustainable society”*. *“The relationship between agriculture and the environment is indisputable, environmental standards are common in our field”*. The objective is *“to minimize the environmental impact; producing more without harming the environment; improving the distribution of food and profitability. In other words, it means producing more with less.”*

During the event, several speakers praised the work done by Union Professional since 2009 on the development of a *“Code of Ethics”* Model to help regulated professions in the adoption of their own Code. In this Model adopted in 2009, Environmental Sustainability was already promoted. Nevertheless, the new version of this Code under preparation will acknowledge the content of the discussions held on the 25th of November.

For more information, please contact our Secretariat.