



## What are professional Chambers for?

France has sixteen professional Chambers. They gather a total of more than one million professionals operating in the health, legal and technical fields.

These fields are those where the state cannot entirely fulfill its public service mission without intermediaries. And they are fields where the market alone cannot spontaneously ensure the perfect regulation of supply and demand in the best interest of the service beneficiaries. The simple knowledge of the price of the good or service and the free competition are not enough to guarantee to the recipients the quality and reliability of the service, and respect for their rights and fundamental interests.

The core mission of Chambers is precisely to ensure that all registered professionals put the interest of consumers before their own. As intermediate bodies with full knowledge of their sector, Chambers see that access and practice conditions laid down by law are fairly applied, in complete transparency. They guarantee that their members behave in the honest and ethical way that society expects from them. Additionally, self-regulation spares the community the human and financial resources needed to ensure that a particular sector of activity behaves as it should.

Chambers upstream and downstream actions ensure that practice conditions laid down by the legislator are observed and that professionals behave properly; they also contribute to the general reflection on advancing quality of professional acts and accompanying social, legislative and economic developments.

Chambers must constantly seek efficiency and rationality in managing their activities. In order to be efficient, these institutions also need to be respected for the relevance of their decisions, to be responsive, independent and transparent. This is essential to their credibility.

A Chamber that would overstep its mission, misuse it at the expense of market laws or protect its members instead of the public interest, would seriously contravene the general interest service the legislator entrusted it with.

As the world crisis requires to adapt to changes while maintaining high standards of ethics, compliance with deontology, which seeks the primacy of the interest of beneficiaries and general interest over that of professionals, is a major asset to preserve public confidence and quality of practice. This respect is part of the founding values of our democracy and participates in the rule of law.

Thus I found it was essential to explain and increase awareness of Chambers missions, roles and operating procedures, as well as requirements associated with self-regulation.