

Editor's Note

A year ago, at the beginning of our thirtieth year of *Air and Space Law*, I foretold you a new and interesting period of our journal. It seems that this was right because in 2005 we have seen several new developments: the creation of new aviation relationships between, for instance, the European Union and the United States of America seems to show some promising signs. The work on the new Rome Convention is under way although it is still unclear whether it will be a really new convention or only a re-do of the old one without the necessary adaptation to the present post 9/11 era. Airline safety audits seem to have been accepted and offer the prospective of a safer and more reliable system of transportation by air.

On the other hand, old disputes are revived when least needed: look at the age-old Airbus/Boeing subsidies quarrel, and at the more modern difference of opinions about the optimum way of fighting terrorism: must we really sacrifice privacy one hundred per cent or would somewhat less be more and better?

Last year I also told you that we were contemplating a reshuffle of our much appreciated group of advisors. When you look at the inside of the front cover of this issue, you will see that we really effected a change during the past few months. We said farewell to, and thanked most sincerely and respectfully some very good friends who were with us during many years. They lent us their name and sometimes contributed papers which we remember with great pleasure. We also asked some other, new colleagues to advise us during the time to come, and to write for us on new topics which they encounter in their respective fields of activities; several of them have been asked because they represent thematical or geographical fields which did not get yet the attention they merit.

All in all, we think that we are ready to offer you insights in the field of air and space law which you need and which you will like. And to finish it all with the traditional call for papers: should you need something, should you know something of interest to us all, write about it and send it to us. Your contribution will be very welcome.

Wybo P. Heere
Editor