
Editorial

IBA Conference

In case anyone has forgotten that London is still one of the major commercial and financial centres of the world, we need no better reminder than the programme of the eighth biennial Conference of the International Bar Association, to be held in the Capital this autumn. The sessions organised under the auspices of the IBA's Section on Business Law, to be attended by around 1,500 lawyers and their guests—this is the largest forum for business lawyers in the world—will be of particular interest to readers of the *Review*. It is perhaps a bit surprising to discover that the Section is meeting in Britain for only the first time in nearly fifteen years. This year's Conference will be formally opened at Central Hall Westminster, on Monday September 14, and the opening session will feature a major speech from Sir John Donaldson; the Conference is scheduled to end on the following Friday.

The proceedings will take place in the shadow of such recent events as, on the one hand the Zeebrugge, Bhopal and Chernobyl disasters and, on the other, the City's "Big Bang" (the first day of the Conference is devoted to "Life after Big Bang") and continuing controversies

about how best to tackle financial malpractice and insider dealing. Topical themes like international commercial crime, joint space collaboration, banking and technology, not to forget the EEC, are also reflected in the Conference programme.

Sessions on offer include an inaugural meeting of the Sub-committee on Business Crime, likely to cover such topical matters as white-collar crime and extradition procedures. The section on Energy and Natural Resources Law is to look at the legal implications of major nuclear disasters, reflecting, hopefully in theoretical terms, though the perils are alas all too real, upon the consequences of a Chernobyl-type episode occurring in Western Europe. The Conference also ventures into outer space; the all-day proceedings on this subject will, probably for the first time, bring together an international group of space development experts from countries as far apart as USA, USSR, China and Japan, to discuss, among other things, the legal implications of the joint space station project.

No doubt some of the output of this impressive programme will soon find its way into the columns of the *Business Law Review*—so, watch this space! Meanwhile, details of the Conference can be obtained from the IBA, on 01-629 1206.