

## Editorial News

### Thank You to Our Authors and Readers

The Editor would like to thank all those who have contributed to the Review in 1997 for their confidence in the journal and their patience in preparing the material as requested, proof reading and very often having to do both in haste. Please keep the articles coming in in 1998.

Thanks are also due to our readers who remain loyal and we hope that you will stay with us in 1998 and let us know if we are giving you the kind of material you need. UK subscribers will be pleased to know that the subscription for 1998 has been reduced!

Very best wishes to all for the holiday season and good fortune for 1998.

*Susan Nicholas*

### EU Enlargement

A consultation document seeking the views of UK businesses, consumers and employees on EU enlargement was published on 4 November by Lord Simon, Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe.

The government says it is committed to successful EU enlargement which will enhance not only the stability, but also the prosperity of the continent. It reckons that enlargement will mean that there will be 100 million extra consumers in the internal market which should bring greater opportunities for British business and greater choice for British consumers.

The Copenhagen European Council in 1993 gave a formal commitment to enlarge the EU to include ten countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE): Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

On 16 July this year, the European Commission published its Opinions on the applications of these countries as part of its Agenda 2000 Communication (which also included proposals for the reform of the EU policies and future EU financing).

Based on an objective analysis of the candidates' political and economic progress, the Commission recommended that accession negotiations be opened with the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia, as well as Cyprus to which a commitment had already been given. The Commission also recommended reinforcing the unprecedented pre-accession assistance for all the CEE applicants to prepare them for membership.

The Luxembourg European Council on 12-13 December is expected to take decisions on the opening of accession negotiations expected to begin in the first half of 1998 under the UK Presidency of the EU.

The consultation document is designed primarily for a business audience but views would also be welcome from consumers' and employees' organisations and

others with an interest in the future development of the EU. Copies of the consultation document can be obtained from:

EU Enlargement Consultation,  
EU Enlargement Unit,  
Department of Trade and Industry,  
66-74 Victoria Street,  
London, SW1E 6SW  
Tel: 0171 215 4407, Fax: 0171 215 4469

Internet Homepage at: <http://www.dti.gov.uk>

Comments should be sent to the same address or by e-mail to [ben.rimington@eirv.dti.gov.uk](mailto:ben.rimington@eirv.dti.gov.uk), by 20 March 1998.

### Supreme Court (Offices) Bill

On 29 October legislation to widen the field of candidates for future appointments to the post of Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor was introduced in the House of Commons. The Bill provides for the removal of certain statutory restrictions which prevent anyone from being considered for appointment as Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor who is not either a barrister or solicitor of at least 10 years' standing, or a civil servant with at least 5 years' experience in the Lord Chancellor's Department. It is considered that the existing statutory provisions limit the field of choice and the proposed new legislation will mean that the most able and experienced candidate who is available may now be appointed.

The current Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor, Sir Thomas Legg KCB QC, who was appointed in September 1989, is to retire in April 1998.