

SPECIAL FOREWORD

CLAUS-DIETER EHLERMANN

It is now generally recognized that European Integration is greatly stimulated and consolidated by the existence of a strong Community legal order. Without the consistent support of the judiciary, Community law might have gone the way of many beautiful international engagements which were never fully realized.

Much of the credit for the Community legal order rightly goes to the Court of Justice of the European Communities, but the Court will be the first to recognize that they do not deserve all the credit. Without the loyal support of the national judiciaries, preliminary questions would not have been asked nor preliminary rulings followed. And the national judiciaries themselves would not have entered into Community law had not national advocates pleaded it before them. For the establishment and growth of the Community legal order it was essential for the whole legal profession to become acquainted with the new system and its requirements. Company lawyers, solicitors and advocates had to be made aware of the opportunities offered to them by the Community legal system. They are the vigilant individuals to whom the Court of Justice attributed, in the *Van Gend & Loos* Case, an effective supervision of the Community rules in addition to the supervision provided for in Articles 169 and 170.

But these vigilant lawyers were not born that way. They had to be made aware of the problems, they had to be stimulated to study them and to participate in the development of European Community law. As the legal advisor of the Commission of the European Communities, Dr. Claus-Dieter Ehlermann was fully aware of the need to involve the

profession in the development of European Community law. Notwithstanding his demanding duties for the Commission he always devoted time to building bridges between the Community legislator, the Community Court and the practitioners. Many others gave good advice on how this could be done, but Dr. Ehlermann did more: he acted himself. For 15 years he has been an editor of the *Common Market Law Review*. Knowing the problems and the needs of the Community he helped direct research into the fields where it was needed and he helped make the profession aware of the issues they should know about.

It was not only as a bridge-builder between the law and the practitioner, but also as a "sleuthhound" for new articles and as a critical reader of articles submitted that he has contributed enormously to the quality of the *Review*. It was not only because of his position, but also because of his great knowledge of the field that Dr. Ehlermann has played a dominant role in our Editorial Board. We wanted to keep him in our executive Editorial Board when he stepped down as legal advisor to the Commission, and he continued his activities for the *Review* for some time. Unfortunately, however, his obligations as Director-General for competition made it impossible for him to participate in the regular meetings of our Editorial Board and he has had to relinquish his position on the Board. It is with great regret that we let him go, but we are happy that he is willing to continue his affiliation with the *Review* as a member of our Advisory Board.

At this moment of transfer we want to express our gratitude to Dr. Ehlermann for the great contribution he has made to the *Review*.

Henry G. Schermers