

SPECIAL FOREWORD

HENRY G. SCHERMERS

The first issue of the 1979 Volume of the *Common Market Law Review* included a short statement by the *Review*'s Editors and Publishers in which a hearty welcome was extended to Professor Henry G. Schermers, the new Director of the Europa Instituut of the University of Leyden. Now, some 15 years and 15 volumes of *Common Market Law Review* later (i.e. half the *Review*'s present lifespan) the time has come to turn from *Ave* to *Vale*.

Henry Schermers has retired as Professor of the Law of International Organizations and as Director of the Europa Instituut. This is why he has asked to be relieved also of his responsibilities as Executive Editor of the *Review*. It is with regret that we let him go, for it is difficult to overestimate the importance of his role in managing and editing the *Review* these past 15 years.

Although the Editors owe Henry Schermers a great debt of gratitude, it would be out of character to be very loud in one's praises of him. Nevertheless there is no hiding from the fact that Henry possesses a number of exceptional qualities which have been invaluable for giving the *Review* its current profile. Henry Schermers combines great intellectual lucidity and a fine legal mind with impeccable charm. He is both eminently knowledgeable and eminently likeable. He seems to know everyone and everyone seems to know him. His many friends know that this unassuming and unobtrusive man is a gifted and dedicated teacher, a prolific writer and an excellent colleague.

These past years, few will fail to have been impressed by his assiduity and his iron discipline. I do not believe that anyone has ever seen him idle. Whenever or wherever one met him – in a train, on a plane, at a station, in the lobby of a hotel – Henry was busy marking student

papers, reading manuscripts, writing comments with a pencil stub, in the margin of some dissertation or some Court Report.

Henry Schermers was recently appointed to the newly created Special Chair for the study of the European Protection of Human Rights ("Van Asbeck Chair") at the University of Leyden. In addition, he will continue to serve as a Member of the Commission of Human Rights at Strasbourg. These two functions will enable him to indulge in the study of human rights issues, an area of the law for which he has always had great passion. There is no doubt that Henry Schermers will not stop writing articles which the *Review* will be pleased to publish.

Obiter. The Editors are glad to state that Henry Schermers will remain associated with the Review through his membership of the Advisory Board.

Jan A. Winter