

1. Conferences are often fertile breeding grounds for projects and research programmes to take shape. They enable participants in existing groups to discuss draft manuscripts and to exchange views over policy matters. Conferences also serve as meeting points for people, as David Lodge has already observed in his *Small world/an academic romance* (1984). This is especially the case with conferences where participation is open, such as those of the Trento (now: Torino) Common Core of European Private Law project. At one of such conferences, two participants found a common interest in unauthorized agency, an interest which earlier this year led to the publication of a book: Danny Busch and Laura Macgregor (eds), *The Unauthorized Agent*, Cambridge: University Press, 2009, 480 pp. Nijmegen's Radboud University was willing to host a conference promoting the book, and this issue of ERPL publishes the proceedings of the conference.

2. The issue begins with an introduction by Reinhard Zimmermann from the Hamburg Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Private Law. Zimmermann compares four sets of international model rules as regards their stand on unauthorized agency: the Principles of European Contract Law, the Unidroit Principles of International Commercial Contracts, the Geneva Convention on Agency in the International Sale of Goods, and the Draft Common Frame of Reference. The introduction is followed by an overview of their book by the two authors, Danny Busch and Laura Macgregor. England's grand old man on Agency, Francis Reynolds from Oxford University, focusses on Apparent authority. Deborah DeMott, who served as Reporter for the American Law Institute's Restatement (Third) of Agency, then reports on Ratification. Radboud University's Rick Verhagen finally discusses the liability of the *falsus procurator*. This issue does not include a survey of the discussion (which – in Dutch – was published in the student law review *Ars Aequi* 2009, 202-205).

3. The conference of the Common Core of European Private Law, where the Busch/Macgregor book originated, is but one of a number of regular conferences which take place either at a fixed location (Torino) or in different places. Examples of revolving conferences are the annual conferences of the Society of Contract Lawyers in Europe, SECOLA, and the European Jurist's Forum. The latter held its fifth meeting in Budapest on 2-3 October 2009. The civil law section addressed a question which fits perfectly in ERPL, and we are therefore very grateful that the organizers have consented to publication of the papers for this section in our review. The subject is the impact of the decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Communities on the civil and commercial law of the EU Member States. Most of the authors – Jürgen Basedow, Hugh Beale, Guy Canivet, Attila Harmathy, Arthur Hartkamp, Marek Safjan, and Christiaan Timmermans are well known to our readers, if

only because of previous essays in ERPL. We hope to publish the papers in ERPL 2010/3. The SECOLA papers are usually published in book form or in the inhouse journal of SECOLA, the *European Review of Contract Law*.

4. Next to the repeat players, there are the one-shotters. By way of example, I will mention two recent initiatives. On 26 and 27 November 2009, the Hellenic Institute of International and Foreign Law organized a conference on 'Law and multiculturalism/contemporary challenges', with a multitude of interesting subjects. Earlier, on 28 and 29 July 2009, Norwich Law School, the Law School at SOAS, the University of Notre Dame London programme, and the Journal of Comparative Law organized a conference in London on Global wrongs and private law remedies and procedures. We will not try to publish the papers of these two conferences, interesting as they may be. Their subject matter is slightly besides the focus of ERPL. This notwithstanding, some of the contributions on Multiculturalism and on Global wrongs look highly interesting. What we would like to offer our readers is at least an account by way of *Erfahrungsbericht* of what happened at the conference. We invite readers to come up with proposals for such conference reports. If they are willing to write a report themselves, that is fine, but please do contact our Managing editor first, in order to ensure that no double work is done. We are looking forward to your suggestions!

5. An example of the kind of *Erfahrungsbericht* we have in mind, is Viola Heutger's report on the Summer school on European private law in Salzburg, published in this issue. This, fortunately from ERPL's trilingual perspective, is in German (but where are the French reports?). This issue also contains a book review by Allard Ringnalda, which confirms ERPL's interest in copyright law.

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