
Editorial

Claus-Dieter Ehlermann

The departure of Dr Ehlermann from Brussels marks the end of an era in the Commission's services. His contribution to European Community law over many years has been immense. Even before he became Director-General of the Commission's Legal Service, he was a prolific writer in the field, and his distinguished tenure of that Director-Generalship was legendary. In that period the Legal Service considerably expanded both in size and, perhaps in a political sense, in terms of its role. The political astuteness which Ehlermann brought, together with a fine legal mind meant that the profile of law and lawyers in the Community Institutions increased dramatically. He combined the not inconsiderable workload with major responsibilities for the *Common Market Law Review* and was thus both inside and outside the house a person of considerable influence on the development of legal practice and scholarship.

After a number of years he left the Legal Service and, after a brief spell as Commission's Spokesman, became Director-General of DG IV. To that post he brought a thorough appreciation of the wider perspectives of Community Law. He also had the chance to put into practice some of the ideas which he had been advocating for some time, particularly relating to a decentralised application of Community Law. The natural sadness at his departure from DG IV is tempered by the knowledge that in his new position at the European University Institute he will continue to make leading contributions

to Community Law. The ending of one era ushers in a new, and surely just as active, stage in his career which brings with it the promise of the continuation of his outstanding influence in an ideal environment. We wish him every success and pleasure in his new appointment.

Ken Simmonds

The recent death of Professor Kenneth Simmonds has robbed the United Kingdom of a distinguished and extremely sociable specialist in European and International Law. At a time when the study of Community Law was not yet fashionable – it had hints of garlic and philosophy for many British lawyers – Ken Simmonds, along with Dominic Lasok and John Mitchell, was one of the early pioneers who promoted the study of EC Law in the United Kingdom. Simmonds was also the inspiration behind the massive project which became the *Encyclopedia of European Community Law*. At the British Institute of International and Comparative Law he used his considerable influence to encourage scholars to get to grips with the new legal order. He will be affectionately remembered for the inspiration and encouragement which he gave to many, and for his great generosity of spirit.

Laurence Gormley