

## Editorial

Due to persistent health problems, Professor Lammy Betten had to give up her function as editor of this Journal. The Publisher has offered me to take over this function, which I have accepted with mixed feelings of sadness about Lammy's condition and excitement for the task ahead. Needless to say that Lammy will be a key member of the Editorial Board.

Speaking of the Board's membership, the reader will notice that some names have changed. I would like to thank those colleagues who, really too overscheduled, asked me to be relieved of this task, as well as those who enthusiastically accepted to be part of the new team. Basically, three generations of scholars will co-operate in a collegial style, although with different responsibilities. I am particularly delighted to welcome the junior members, younger scholars who will bear the major burden in the editorial process. The new Editorial office (see colophon) will inevitably play a fundamental role and I wish them all the best.

Professor Betten prepared this issue while, at the same time, negotiations about the transfer of the editorship were going on. The interesting point in the present articles is that they all cover, from very different perspectives, the same issue of labour protection standards. These labour protection standards, at the international/community level, as well as the domestic one, no longer simply fulfil a social justice function. Increasingly, labour legislation is requested to contribute within a logic of job creation. Promoting employment may in some circumstances lead to the consequence of lowering working conditions. This issue is well discussed by Jim Murray in the context of the ILO Part-Time Work Convention No. 175 (1994), followed by Ulrich Zachert who discusses recent developments in German Labour Law and Industrial Relations. Jeff Kenner analyses the foreseeable impact of the Amsterdam Treaty employment chapter on the development of 'non-binding soft laws', as an alternative to the Community's harmonising tendencies of the (also recent) past.

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