

Editorial

France and Germany are in the forefront of this issue. Philippe Auvergnon presents a comment on the new working time reduction legislation, focusing mainly on the situation of small businesses. In so doing, he discusses the challenging theme of collective bargaining in a deunionised environment: France is certainly a remarkable example in this respect. Much can similarly be learnt from the German legislation transposing the posted workers EU directive, which is well covered by Olaf Deinert.

As for the European Union perspective, the reader will find three contributions. Helen Desmond examines a theme which is actually universal, that is how flexible working arrangements might encourage third age workers to stay on in the labour market. Dagmar Schiek comments on the ECJ's judgement in *Badeck* – the third on the admissibility of positive action measures under Community Law. While Luisella Pavan Woolfe of DG Employment of the European Commission closes the list of contributors commenting on the coordination of employment policies within the EU. Nicola Smit's article is also somehow related to Europe. In fact, she analyses the recent legislation passed in South Africa on a transfer of a business, trade or undertaking, making some very useful comparisons with the EU directive on the subject.

On 29 April 2000 the annual meeting of the 'club' of labour law periodicals (see the full list in the colophon) took place at the *IJCLLR* headquarters in Modena. The membership has been enlarged and the cooperation intensified. The proceedings of the conference on 'Job Creation and Labour Law' will be published by Kluwer Law International in a forthcoming book.

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