

Editorial

The EU Charter of fundamental rights was proclaimed at the Nice European Council last December (see Comment and Documentation section). Many reservations may be expressed in analysing this document, from both its substantial and procedural perspectives. Basic principles are covered in rather vague terms. The charter has been only 'proclaimed' and not fully linked with the Treaties. However, one cannot conceal that it represents an important steps towards a real Constitution of Europe. *IJCLIR* will offer its readership adequate comments in a forthcoming issue.

We open the 2001 collection with an article of Clyde Summers who presented a general report at the recent Jerusalem labour law world congress. Clyde has confirmed his impressive intellectual longevity, discussing the theme of civil/commercial vs. labour contracts with rare comparative expertise. The international perspective is equally covered by Jill Murray who briefs us on the new ILO maternity protection convention.

More domestic-oriented articles offer information on recent events in Argentina and the UK. Both Mario Ackerman and Gillian Morris cover fresh statutes which deal with labour-management relations at the micro level. Interestingly, we might discover how similar is a trend towards decentralisation of industrial relations, now further strengthened because of legislative interventions. Innovations in the law of collective bargaining are discussed in relation to Norway and Quebec by Atle Johansen and Guylaine Vallée, jointly with Jean Charest, focusing on the role of negotiated labour protection standards in a strongly competitive and globalized economy. Finally this issue comprises two contributions from Sweden. Ann Numhauser-Henning, a well-known colleague, and Mia Ronnmar, a young but promising scholar, elaborating on the need to revise and rethink labour law in the context of the knowledge society.

MARCO BIAGI

