

Editorial

The European section of this issue addresses two major developments. Lammy Betten comments on the new Charter of Fundamental Rights proclaimed at the Nice summit. She concludes that the 2000 Charter will not directly affect workers' rights at the national level, nor will it lead to immediate changes in the judicial protection of workers in the European Union. However – Lammy claims – that the Charter may serve as a source of inspiration for further EU action. In EU affairs, case law plays an equally important role, in that it covers remarkably innovative topics such as collective agreements and competition law. This highly controversial theme is discussed by Stein Evju and Pietro Ichino who offer a converging, although not identical, analysis.

The international nature of IJCLLIR is confirmed once again by the variety on authors' nationalities. In this issue Brian Brooks covers a classic topic – employment dispute settlement – offering a comparative overview where New Zealand is compared in extremely different contexts, such as the People's Republic of China, on the one side, and the UK, on the other, plus other connections. In the section *Documentation and Comment*, Kadriye Bakirci offers a new view on the Turkish situation, discussing sexual harassment and sexual discrimination assuming their potential to violate fundamental individual rights.

Then the reader will find two contributions which demonstrate how quickly the traditional scope of labour law has been widened. Samuel Engblom addresses the condition of self-employed workers, claiming that many are not just workers, but commercial enterprises as well. In short, both labour and commercial law should redefine their respective role in regulating this new phenomenon. Alan Neal demonstrates that public sector employment relations is no longer the 'Cinderella' in labour law. More than that, Alan convincingly demonstrates that many innovations experimented in several nations are leading towards a convergence of public sector experience with the private sector paradigm.

MARCO BIAGI

