

Editorial: IJCLLIR adopts a refereeing process

Two American authors contribute to this issue on the ongoing debate covering fundamental rights at work at the international level. Janice Bellace discusses the present situation in the actual implementation of ILO rules, mainly focusing on the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Also Lance Compa looks at this topic, taking the angle of the US experience which, in his view, fails to meet many of the internationally recognised labour standards.

Much of the discussion concentrates not on principles but rather on the more convenient ways to implement them. This is true for both ILO measures and EU policies. Three European authors Niklas Bruun, Eugenia Caracciolo and myself, agree there is a need to experiment with an innovative approach, based upon *soft laws* rather than those inspired by traditional prescriptive and binding measures. Bruun argues that EU labour law will be increasingly affected by the coordinatory logic of the European Employment Strategy. Caracciolo believes that a family-friendly workplace cannot be based simply on EU directives. Personally, I think that the quality-of-work objective, agreed at EU level, could be better achieved through promotional measures, mainly via benchmarking activities.

The above mentioned conclusion is somehow confirmed by Jacques Rojot, Alice Le Flanchec and Catherine Voynnet-Fourboul who claim that European collective bargaining over the last decade was not so much promoted by the voluntary proactive policy of the Commission, but facilitated due to the innovative mechanisms introduced by the European Works Council directive.

Labour law and industrial relations alike, are searching for new frontiers. This brings us to the idea of conferring new individual rights to employees, for instance the 'right to part time' introduced in The Netherlands and Germany, analysed by Antoine Jacobs and Marlene Schmidt.

In conclusion, there is important information for the readers and authors alike: the IJCLLIR editorial board, in its meeting of 26 June 2001 in Oslo, has decided that all pieces submitted to the Journal 'are subjected to a process of review under the control of the editorial board'. This means that a refereeing process will take place and all articles will go through a peer review.

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*announce that on **30 November – 1 December 2001** a conference is
going to take place in Modena, Italy, at the University of
Modena & Reggio Emilia*

on the theme:

**QUALITY OF WORK
AND EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT
IN EUROPE**

The conference will cover the following items:

- 1) Developments of Workers' Participation across the EU**
- 2) European Company Statute**
- 3) European Works Councils**
- 4) Directive on information and consultation in national undertakings**
- 5) Financial participation**

Participation at the conference is open to all

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