

FOREWORD

The contents of this issue of *The International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations* reflect some of the pressures under which many of the leading European trade union movements have been labouring during recent years.

The contributions are set in context with a paper by Jacques Rojot (*University of Le Mans, France*), setting out some of those pressures, and looking at various responses by different trade union movements from an international perspective. This "scene setting" paper is then followed by a selection of three papers originally delivered at a symposium in Bologna, Italy, in November 1987.

First, Paul Davies (*University of Oxford, United Kingdom*) presents an account of the economic and political pressures which have been bearing upon the British trade union movement in the years since the election to office of a Conservative government under Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher. The French experience is then considered in a paper by Antoine Lyon-Caen (*University of Paris X, France*), in the course of which the author highlights the problems facing the French trade union movement in a context of changing attitudes towards the notion of "representativity" of individual trade unions. Finally, Alan Neal (*University of Leicester, United Kingdom*) looks at the impact of change in recent years upon the trade union movement in Sweden, and offers a slightly more optimistic antidote to the general pessimism which seems to characterise discussions of trade union development in the late 1980s.

A particular point of note is that the Bologna symposium signalled the commencement of active co-operation between this journal and a number of other leading Labour Law and Industrial Relations journals in Europe and North America. More symposia are planned within the framework of this collaboration, the next of which will be a two-day event in Paris, under the auspices of the French Ministry of Labour, on the subject of "Forms of Work". It is very much hoped that such collaboration will lead to an even warmer working relationship between the various European and American journals in this field, and that the fruits of such ventures will be shared by our readership in future issues of this journal.

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