

Editors' Foreword

Two key areas of concern make up the content of this Summer issue of Volume 8 of the *International Journal*. In the Articles section, a group of papers, originally presented to a seminar in Bologna, Italy at the beginning of 1992, address the inter-related fields of labour mobility and immigration control in Europe. By contrast, the Documentation section presents two important European Community instruments which have recently been issued in the context of equal treatment policies and measures to combat discrimination at work on the basis of gender. These are complemented by the study on Night Work for Women, which is presented in the Case Law section.

The problem of how to respond to the phenomenon of labour mobility in the multinational Continent of Europe has faced politicians since migration began. However, the need to address that problem in a fast-changing political context has rendered the problem significantly more pressing than has been the case for many years. Not since the period immediately following World War II has such a volume of migration been witnessed, and not since that time has such a challenge been posed to European leaders and policy-makers.

The issues arising in connection with labour mobility — whether in relation to the recruitment of migrant labour or to its exclusion — touch various nations in radically different ways. Consequently, the articles making up this issue of the *International Journal* seek to present some of the aspects of this complex phenomenon and to offer varying approaches to consideration of the economic, political and social responses needed.

Thus, the problems of Ireland, as a net exporter of labour, are contrasted with those of the newly unified Germany, whose absorption of a substantial labour force from the former GDR has already given rise to repercussions throughout the economies of the former Western European nations. That problem of absorption, in turn, is then considered from the viewpoint of the difficulties raised by the new-found mobility being enjoyed (or suffered) by workers from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the wake of significant political change during the past three years. Varying mechanisms for controlling the inward flow of migrants are then demonstrated through a look at the experience of two ex-colonial powers: The Netherlands and the United Kingdom. In the light of the data presented by these studies, consideration then turns to possible ways of building upon past experience to develop a national response, taking the case of Italy, and, finally, to some of the more general social issues posed for European institutions by growing labour mobility and international migration in the 1990s.

The documentation included in this issue foreshadows a study of equal treatment and anti-discrimination policies in employment, which will constitute the core of the Autumn 1992 issue of the *International Journal*. Both the European Commission's Recommendation on the protection of the dignity of women and men at work, and the Council Recommendation on child care, constitute ancillary, but vital, elements contributing towards the goal of promoting equal opportunities between men and women at work. So, too, the important recent decision of the German Constitutional Court on the relationship between provisions on night work for women and the constitutional protection against discrimination on the basis of gender raises a fundamental issue in this field. In the Case Law section of this issue, the German decision is considered against a background of international provisions relating to night work for women.

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