

Editors' Foreword

This final issue of the 1992 *International Journal* rounds off the first full volume prepared and produced under the auspices of Kluwer Law and Taxation Publishers. It also completes our reports on what has turned out to be a momentous year for Labour Law and Industrial Relations around the world. Perhaps nowhere has this proved to be as dramatic as in the European context, where the war in the former territories of Yugoslavia has placed the spotlight painfully upon questions of immigration and free movement for workers and other migrants; where the difficulties in achieving ratification of the "Maastricht" treaty have placed unprecedented strains upon the European Community of the existing 12 Member States, and raised serious question-marks over the ability of the EC to deliver on its plans for a "social Europe"; and where, in the first week of December, a rejection of closer European integration by the Swiss electorate has raised fresh problems for the planned "European Economic Space", between the countries of the EC and of the EFTA grouping.

Some of the issues closely tied to these European developments are dealt with in this issue. In particular, there is a study by Willem Dercksen and Hans Adriaansens of a variety of problems touching upon the question of labour force participation, which is followed with an analysis by Max Rood of the EC's recent proposals for the development of worker participation at the Community level. This latter contribution is supplemented in the DOCUMENTATION section by the texts of the proposed instruments on forms for participation in the European company (the "SE") and for the establishment of "European Works Councils".

Also included in this issue's DOCUMENTATION section is the text of the newly-agreed Council Directive amending the 1975 instrument on collective redundancies, with the integrated text of the revised Directive set out in full.

This issue of the *International Journal* is not, however, confined solely to matters European. Most notably, Jean-Michel Servais offers some thoughts on problems of Labour Law regulation in the "informal sector", in the course of which he draws extensively from material analysing developments and progress being made in South East Asia and in a variety of developing Labour Law systems.

Finally, the SELECTED CASE LAW section includes an extensive study of human resources development at the international level, with particular concentration being directed towards activities through the ILO in this field. Much of the material dealt with here relates directly to matters raised in the contribution from Jean-Michel Servais, and serves to underline the wide-ranging role which the ILO has been playing, and continues to perform, in promoting this often-neglected aspect of labour relations development.

L.B.
A.C.N.