

## Editors' Foreword

This Autumn issue of the *International Journal* embraces a wide spectrum in its ARTICLES section, while the concentration in the SELECTED CASE LAW and DOCUMENTATION AND COMMENT sections is firmly upon the European Community labour market.

It is a particular pleasure to include the fascinating contribution by Clive Thompson on the development of a key area of South African labour law. Not only does this piece illustrate a vivid departure from the received wisdom of comparative law commentators on the subject of "borrowing and bending" experience from foreign legal systems, but it also enables the *International Journal* to pay tribute to one of the major figures in contemporary comparative labour law — Clyde Summers. As a scholar in the field over many years, and, more recently, as Editor of the *Comparative Labor Law Journal* (one of the group of labour law journals with which this *International Journal* enjoys a close relationship and regularly collaborates), Clyde Summers has contributed richly to the advancement of knowledge in his chosen sphere. The *Liber Amicorum* in his honour has been compiled and edited by Roger Blanpain and Manfred Weiss, and it is from that collection of essays that Clive Thompson's article is drawn. We also gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Nomos Publishers in allowing us to reproduce the piece in this issue of the *International Journal*.

By way of contrast to the approach offered by Clive Thompson, Jelle Visser's study of differences in union organisation between major countries offers a rich vein of data from which the author has sought to construct a preliminary model for this important phenomenon. Meanwhile, revealing yet another way of considering modern trends in labour market organisation and regulation, Colin Bourn places the recent amendments to the European Community's Collective Dismissals Directive in a context which highlights developing business practice in pan-European and other multinational enterprise perspectives.

This issue's SELECTED CASE LAW is concerned with the important Opinion delivered earlier this year by the European Court of Justice in relation to European Community and individual Member State competences within the context of the activities of the International Labour Organisation.

The DOCUMENTATION AND COMMENT which follows also deals with important aspects of developing the European labour market and its workforce with an eye to a future beyond the current economic crisis. In particular, the approaches adopted by the various political institutions of the European Community are brought to the fore by the items included in this section.

Finally, the DIARY entries serve to remind our readers about two of the most important international meetings which are scheduled to take place in the Summer of 1994.

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