

Editors' Foreword

The arrival on the international scene of a new system of Labour Law — regulating working relationships within the European Economic Area (EEA), which came into effect on 1st January 1994 — constitutes the subject-matter for the first contribution to the ARTICLES section of this issue of the *International Journal*. Tore Sigeman provides us with some observations on the impact of that new system of rules for the Swedish model of labour market regulation, and, in the course of so doing, offers also a comparison between the new EEA régime and the already established rules concerning the “social dimension” of the European Communities.

Equally at the forefront of current developments is the debate over how various regulatory systems should treat those undertakings falling under the rubric of “small and medium-sized enterprises”. On this subject, Jean-Michel Servais presents a wide-ranging survey of experience throughout the World, with particular attention being paid to the standards emanating from the International Labour Organisation in the course of its development and support work.

The SELECTED CASE LAW section looks at two issues. First, Malcolm Ross considers some of the implications which might be said to require careful consideration in the wake of the recent decision of the British House of Lords in the case of *R v. Secretary of State for Employment, ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission and another*. Lammy Betten then addresses an important development within the Council of Europe — the move towards issuing Recommendations to Contracting States who are found to be in contravention of provisions of the European Social Charter.

In the DOCUMENTATION AND COMMENT section a number of key items are presented, of which the Communication from the Commission of the European Communities on application of the Agreement on Social Policy will attract most attention. However, one should take particular care not to overlook the Proposal intended to deal with the problem of the external competence of the European Community at International Labour Conferences — a matter of irritation which promises to present practical and procedural difficulties for some time to come.

This issue of the *International Journal* rounds off with a reminder of important DIARY dates for the coming two years, together with information about two of the most important Summer Schools taking place in Europe during the Summer of 1994.

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