

## Editors' Foreword

With this first issue of the *International Journal* for 1995 we focus in the ARTICLES section upon three primary areas of development.

Picking up upon what is, perhaps, the key political question for the enlarged European Union, Brian Bercusson and Jan Jacob van Dijk offer a number of observations and suggestions for the future working out and operation of the Protocol and Agreement on Social Policy included in the Maastricht Treaty of Union of 1992. Their comments build upon work done for the Economic and Social Committee of the EC, and provide a stimulating insight into the political process involved with this sensitive area in the run-up to the scheduled Inter-governmental Conference of 1996. This is followed by Brian Brooks' review of a century of compulsory conciliation and arbitration in Australia and New Zealand, before we return to Europe — this time for Taco van Peijpe to consider some of the adjustment processes being imposed upon those Nordic countries which have become members of the European Union.

The DOCUMENTATION AND COMMENT section deals with two related areas. First, there is presentation of some of the responses to the recent White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness, Employment, coming from both the EEA Consultative Committee and from the EC Economic and Social Committee. Then, particular aspects of equal opportunities promotion are addressed, through the 1994 Council Resolution on action by the European Structural Funds and through the recent December 1994 Resolution on equal participation by women in an employment-intensive economic growth strategy within the European Union.

Finally, the Editors would like to take this opportunity of reminding readers about the forthcoming international conferences in Montreal (ISLLSS, 24th - 27th May 1995) and Washington (IIRA, 31st May - 4th June 1995).

**L.B.**  
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