

Editors' Foreword

This Summer issue of *The International Journal* turns the spotlight sharply upon the development of social policy at the supra-national level, with particular concentration upon the results of the Uruguay Round of GATT multilateral trade negotiations and its accompanying debate over the desirability or otherwise of "social clauses", together with the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995.

In the ARTICLES section, in a contribution based upon his General Report to the 3rd American Regional Congress of Labour Law and Social Security, in Montreal, Luis Aparicio-Valdez casts a wide-ranging eye over the various regional trade arrangements, and, in the course of so doing, offers an insight into some of the implications for national systems of Labour Law which all too often fail to attract widespread attention or comment. The second contribution in this section of *The International Journal* also highlights a lesser-known system of Labour Law and industrial relations, as Sigurdur Lindal presents the experience of Iceland, facing the challenges of adherence to the Agreement on the European Economic Area.

The materials presented in the DOCUMENTATION AND COMMENT section divide into three clear categories. First, there is the important Medium Term Social Action Programme for 1995-1997, presented by the European Commission in April 1995, along with the preceding Council Resolution of December 1994 on economic and social convergence. This is followed by the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on a "bone of contention" which has been covered before in *The International Journal* — the issue of relations between the European Union and the International Labour Organisation. Finally, two Resolutions of the European Parliament and an Opinion from the Economic and Social Committee on the Uruguay Round and on the World Summit for Social Development indicate very clearly the priorities and importance attached to these global tendencies by those who would seek to influence the future development of social policy for Europe.

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