

Special Editorial

This is the first issue of the 40th volume of the law review that started out in 1974 under the title *Legal Issues of European Integration* and is now called *Legal Issues of Economic Integration*, thus reflecting the increased importance of international economic law at large, next to the phenomenon of European integration. This is a good moment to take stock briefly of whence we came and where we intend to go.

In the foreword to the first issue of the first volume of LIEI, its founding father, Professor H.G. (Henri or Hein) Schermers, sets out the eminently practical reasons why this review was started: to provide an outlet to the papers written by the graduate students of the so-called international course in European Community law and to papers produced by the staff of the Amsterdam Europa Instituut. Indeed, the first volume, appearing semi-annually, was entirely filled by such contributions.

The present board of editors remains true to these two groups of authors. Student papers of exceptional quality still have a regular place in our review, witness the contribution by Eva van der Zee in this issue. Similarly, contributions by staff members continue to find their way into the review. However, both categories of papers are no longer the sole source of the contents of the journal. They have to compete with publications from everywhere in the world on the basis of the most rigorous standards of legal scholarship and writing maintained by the editors and, if necessary, by outside peer reviewers when expertise in the board of editors is lacking. By now, the student and staff papers form a small minority of the articles, annotations and book reviews that LIEI publishes four times each year. While LIEI has grown, we remain a small publication, but that also has its advantages – for instance, a relatively quick turn-over time for incoming papers.

It is on this basis that the present board of editors will continue in the years to come to select and commission high-quality scholarly contributions in the field of European integration and international economic law in the conviction that this is the only way to retain the readership's attention for the urgent legal problems in these areas of human activity.

*The Board of Editors,
12 October 2012*