

## Editorial

In May 1988 we met to discuss the creation of a *European Journal of International Law*. At the time we seemed to have a powerful *raison d'être* premised on three dimensions. We wrote in our statement of intent:

"The first dimension is rooted in an inchoate notion of European identity. In view of the political division the notion of Europe is not easily defined today. But there is a feeling of identity within the classical confines of "old Europe" transcending East and West. And there certainly is a European tradition in international legal scholarship. It may be characterized by a strength in, and sensitivity to, doctrine and theory, by a strong awareness of history and its role in the development of international law and, in recent decades, by an inbuilt respect for pluralism of approaches and the value of diversity.

But, of course, Europe of the 1980s and 1990s has assumed additional, institutional, dimensions. Western Europe has seen a powerful process of economic, political and cultural integration, which has had its strongest manifestation in the advent of European Communities, now engaged in a further strengthening of institutional and normative ties in the context of the plan for the Single Market. In the international arena the European Community has become a powerful actor. Beyond the geographical reach of the Community, the Council of Europe has long been contributing to a European identity, above all in the human rights field. Returning to the economic plane, a process of transnational cooperation similar to that of the European Communities has taken place among East European countries in the context of Comecon.

Finally, it appears as if the confrontational cleavages between East and West and North and South which have characterized international discourse in the Post War era are breaking down. A new opportunity for dialogue seems to be emerging, not only in the world of power politics but also within the scholarly community. Europe is located almost as a natural bridge for this new dialogue."

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Of course, we did not predict the rush of developments in Eastern Europe and within the Community, with its decision to move to Monetary Union, which have added sharp poignancy to our original statement of intent. But we think that today, even more than in the spring of 1988, there is strong justification for publishing this new *Journal*.

The editorial policy of the *European Journal of International Law* will attempt to reflect these basic premises.

An important specific concern of the *Journal* will be to explore the role in international law of European regional organizations and in particular the European Community. The *Journal* will encourage articles dealing with the legal aspects of the Community as an international actor. The central role which the Community is assuming in the GATT or the North-South dialogue, through instruments such as the successive Lomé conventions, and in the East-West dialogue, exemplified by the role it has taken in coordinating aid to Eastern Europe, will provide a rich source for new contributions. We hope to encourage articles based not only on the inside perspective of Community law experts but also from mainstream international lawyers.

As part of this concern the *Journal*, following in the footsteps of its national counterparts, will provide a regular service on European Community "state practice" and treaty practice, as well as decisions of the European Court of Justice bearing on international law. As a service to practitioners, specific attention will be given to the international trade dimension of the Community: anti-dumping, countervailing measures and the like.

The *Journal* will make a concerted effort to open its pages, in each issue, to scholars from a diversity of countries within Europe and beyond. We invite all scholars to submit articles to the *Journal*. To facilitate this outreach, the *Journal* will accept articles written in the major European languages and will see to their translation into its House languages: English and French. In selecting articles for publication, the Editors will be aided by an internationally composed Board of Advisors. Within Western Europe, the new *Journal* intends to contribute to the free movement of ideas. In the dialogue with the East it is designed to serve as a vehicle for Glasnost in both directions.

The *Journal* will regularly publish symposia on major issues of international law. In the choice of issues for, and contributors to, these symposia, special attention will be given to the objectives of encouraging transnational dialogue both within Western Europe and between East and West and North and South.

Another regular feature will be the *Kaleidoscope*, a section which will provide brief legal analysis of current events of interest.

Naturally, it is not the purpose of the *Journal* to revive a new "Eurocentric" tradition in international law. Whether a genuinely European approach does exist or what contours it may eventually take, remains to be seen. The *Journal* will not en-

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gage in any engineering in that direction. Contributions from scholars world-wide, gravitating towards the concerns of the *Journal* will be welcome.

However, specific items in the *Journal* may articulate a European way of reflecting on international law.

We shall for instance publish on an annual basis a section entitled "The European Tradition in international Law", with major articles and commentary on European scholars who have shaped international legal thinking. Scelle, Anzilotti, Lauterpacht and Verdross are a few of the names which readers may expect to encounter in the first years.

Finally, in Forum and in our Correspondence column we will give space to actual exchanges of views on international law issues of topical interest.

*The Editors*