

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Last year, the 2014 edition of the Yearbook revolved around the issues of citizenship prompted by the developments taking place in Ukraine. Unfortunately, recent events in this country continue to give food for legal thought. This year's volume is centred on the issues of international humanitarian law, international criminal law and human rights law. All these fields of law have seen anniversaries in the past years: the 60th anniversary of the entry into force of the European Convention on Human Rights in 2013, the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the first World War and the 150th anniversary of the first Geneva Convention in 2014 and various other anniversaries are all important landmarks to the development of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Both human rights law and international humanitarian law have gained ever increasing significance. The development of human rights law has resulted in the diversification of human rights and a greater emphasis on third generation rights. This presents a challenge to both practitioners and academics on how to interpret these rights, how to enforce them and how international mechanisms work. International humanitarian law and international criminal law have similarly undergone great developments; the challenges of their application and the changed circumstances in which they are applied require an ongoing debate on how they provide answers to new demands and challenges.

The thematic part is therefore divided into two fields. The section on human rights law starts with an overview by Professor Kardos Kaponyi of the development of human rights law and its European institutions, followed by the excellent piece co-authored by Professor Christina Binder on the European Court of Human Rights and its jurisprudence on social rights. Subsequent articles deal with the European Court of Human Rights and specific segments of the human rights system: economic and social rights, minority rights and environmental law.

The international criminal law and international humanitarian law section is opened by a critical analysis of the ICTY's jurisprudence on provisional release through the examination of the *Šešelj* case. An analysis follows of Hungary's challenge of dealing with communist crimes as international crimes through the introduction of the new developments of the *Biszku*-case. Turning to international humanitarian law, after an excellent historical introduction of the emergence of aerial warfare in World War I and the challenges of relevant legal regulations, two actual topics follow: one on targeting process and the legal assessments throughout, and another one on National Crisis Response Measures and the experiences with respect to the conflict in the Ukraine.

Beyond the thematic part, the third volume of the Yearbook focuses on current developments in the field of international law and European law – including analysis of current

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questions, such as the Crimean secession under international law by Professor Sломanson –, as well as the latest developments in Hungarian state practice. The Forum part concentrates on the European Court of Human Rights' judgment on pre-trial detention. Don't forget to check out the book reviews to see what Hungarian scholarly literature had to offer this year.

The year 2014 started with a great loss for the Hungarian international law community. *Ad litem* judge (ICTY) Árpád Prandler, former Ambassador, Head of the International Law Department of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director and Deputy to the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Chairman of the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the UN General Assembly, member of the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, Board member of the Hungarian Red Cross, a dedicated practitioner and academic, and a great supporter of the younger generation, passed away at the beginning of the year. This volume is dedicated to him.

As always, we wish you a good read until 2016 with the next volume of the Hungarian Yearbook of International Law and European Law.

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