

Editorial: Taking Law Reform Seriously

The number of legal journals has increased steadily over the past decades. Virtually every field where lawyers have become involved can boast its own journal(s) these days. Artificial intelligence, children's rights, riparian law, waste management – to name only a few, selected completely at random and in alphabetical order – no subject seems too exotic. Whereas it had been sufficient 'to follow' the articles and notices in maybe a dozen leading journals when the most senior of our readers and collaborators pursued their studies and started their careers, nowadays, it has become quite impossible to be aware of, let alone read, everything of interest and importance in any area of law. Besides time, library (and personal) budgets have not been able to keep up with the increase in the amount of literature and journals published. Therefore, why on earth yet another journal, you may ask. The answer is that, at least in Europe, there is not a single journal devoted to *the quality* of all the law we are producing, interpreting, imposing, and writing about.

The *European Journal of Law Reform*, by providing a forum for international, interdisciplinary, comparative, and – above all – creative debate of how *the law* can and must be improved, is thus unique in its approach.

In scope it will observe, document and comment on *ongoing law reform*. It will provide a platform for discussion between academics and practitioners, across national, disciplinary, and linguistic frontiers, of *proposals for law reform*. Furthermore, it will stimulate critical commentary on *areas of law in need of reform*. In all these stages of law reform, the *EJLR* is going to systematically foster *the art and methodology of law reform*.

In content, by drawing on contributions from recognized authorities and younger experts in law and related disciplines, the *EJLR* will focus on: (a) reform of national law in Western States, mainly but not only in Europe, including the challenge of science, technology and sociocultural change to established methods of creation, legislation, interpretation and adjudication of law; (b) reform of the legal and regulatory environment in Central and Eastern Europe; (c) reform of the legal system and several branches of law of the European Union; (d) reform and development of European private international law and international procedural law; and (e) challenges in public international law and the international protection of human rights.

While its focus will thus clearly be on European developments and Europe's major asset in the world, its intellectual tradition and diversity, the *EJLR* is not a journal of *European* law reform, least of all of *Western* European law reform. Rather, it seeks input, both along and off the known and tried paths, from a large

variety of sources. It especially welcomes high quality contributions from Central and Eastern Europe. It is also receptive to challenging opinions from other parts of the world. It operates a network of correspondents at major law schools and relevant international institutions in Europe, including Central and Eastern Europe, and North America, for the purpose of systematic surveys of ongoing law reform and contribution of articles. The *EJLR* maintains contacts with parliamentary groups and professional organizations for law reform. It will also consider publication of proceedings of major conferences on law reform.

The *EJLR* is published in four issues per year as of 1998. The editors are based at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London, the Faculty of Law and the Europainstitut of the University of Basel, as well as Concordia International University Estonia in Tallinn. The *EJLR* is published and distributed by Kluwer Law International of The Hague, London and Cambridge MA (US), in co-operation with Helbing & Lichtenhahn publishers.

The *EJLR* welcomes submissions of manuscripts for publication. Anybody wishing to write an article for the *EJLR* is invited to contact the editors concerning the suitability of the topic and in order to obtain the Guidelines for Authors. By applying a very selective editorial policy and a system of independent and anonymous review of submissions, the Journal aims at the highest academic standards. Copies of books sent to the Editors will be considered for review.