Editorial

Frank Emmert[*]

The present special issue of the European Journal of Law Reform on bonum commune has its early roots in a symposium organized by the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences on famous Monte Verità, the 'mountain of truth', above Ascona on Lago Maggiore in 1996. While the participants at that symposium reflected on human beings as egotists, the idea for another symposium was born, one to deal with the common good or *bonum commune*.

After long and careful preparations, Professor Beat Sitter-Liver, on behalf of the Swiss Academy, invited a group of scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, to spend a week in the Swiss mountains in November 2003, this time at the Gerzensee Centre of the Swiss National Bank. In particular thanks to the careful selection of opinionated individuals and the open format of the discussions, this symposium turned out to be an eye-opener in many respects and an experience that none of the participants will easily forget.

As a result of the 2003 symposium, the Swiss Academy published a volume entitled *Gemeinwohl – Bien commun: Ein kritisches Plädoyer – Un plaidoyer critique* (Academic Press Fribourg 2004). That book unites nineteen position papers from the participants of the symposium, fifteen in German language, three in French and one in English.[1] To make at least some of the

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[1] Jean-Michel Bonvin/Georg Kohler, *Einleitung - Introduction* (pp. ix-xx);

Kurt Seelmann, *Bonum Commune - ein Problemaufriss* (pp. 1-14+);

Francis Cheneval, *'Bonum commune' oder von der beständigen Wiederkehr des Politischen: Begriffs- und philosophiegeschichtliche Erörterungen* (pp. 15-45);

Angelika Krebs, *Gerechtigkeit, Gleichheit und Gemeinwohl* (pp. 47-61);

Georg Kohler, *Bonum commune und das Problem des Politischen: Wider die Entstaatlichung des Gemeinwohls* (pp. 63-91);

Jean-Michel Bonvin, *Le bien commun à l'épreuve de la procéduralisation des normes* (pp. 93-113+);

Hugues Poltier, *Du bien commun: Quelques remarques intempestives* (pp. 115-130)

Rudolf zur Lippe, *Gemeingut* (pp. 131-141)

Mario G. Losano, *Ein Pfad nach Utopia? Von der Philosophie über die Gesetzgebung bis zum würdigen Leben* (pp. 145-176+);

Martin Lendi, *Das Gemeinwohl und die Änderbarkeit der Verfassung - dargestellt am Beispiel der Schweizerischen Bundesverfassung* (pp. 177-207);

Mark Joób, *Gemeinwohl als Grundlage globaler Gerechtigkeit* (pp. 209-229+);

Paul H. Dembinski, *De l'échec des utopies à la redécouverte du bien commun* (pp. 231-256+);

papers that deal with legal issues in the broadest sense accessible to a more international audience, the European Journal of Law Reform is now presenting translated and updated versions of ten of these papers in English. We hope that the important topic and the interesting ideas from our symposium will stimulate further research and discussion around the world.

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Véronique Zanetti, *Gleichheit oder Minimalstandard in der globalen Gerechtigkeit* (pp. 257-271+);

Sandra Lavenex, *On the Challenge of Rethinking the Bonum Commune in a Globalizing World* (pp. 275-299+)

Frank Emmert, *Das bonum commune in der Globalisierungsfalle* (pp. 301-324+)

Christian Giordano, *Das entfremdete Gemeinwohl: Zur sozialen Produktion von Misstrauen in Gesellschaften am Rande Europas* (pp. 325-351+);

Jürg Martin Gabriel, *Das bonum commune im Dilemma: Patrimoniales Staatsversagen in Afrika* (pp. 353-376+);

Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz, *Aussereuropäische Konzepte von Gemeinwohl: Die Mongolen* (pp. 377-402);

Michael Schefczyk, *Black Reparations: Wiedergutmachung historischen Unrechts als Bedingung des bonum commune* (pp. 403-441).

Contributions marked with an + appear in this volume in English.