

# EDITORIAL

This issue finds *Environmental Policy and Law* in the middle of a transition from our late founder and Editor-in-Chief, our beloved Wolfgang Burhenne, to his own hand-picked successor, Achim Steiner, former Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, soon to head up the UN Development Programme, currently Director of the Oxford Martin School and Professorial Fellow at Balliol College, University of Oxford, UK. As such it provides the undersigned, as Managing Editor of *EPL*, a rare opportunity to move out from “behind the scenes” and share a bit of insight into the new changes to the journal and recent developments in the world of environment.

On behalf of the staff of *EPL*, I am thus able to thank the directors and staff of our publisher, IOS Press, for their support to all of us (and their patience) during this challenging time. We would also like to reassure our readers of our continuing commitment to the goals of our founder, including providing insights from professionals in all countries and all environmental specialty areas.

In keeping with past practices, we also wish to congratulate Cristiana Paşca Palmer, formerly Romania’s Minister for Environment, Waters and Forests who has stepped in as the new Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We wish her well in this important task.

As difficult times appear to be ahead, particularly with regard to our planetary environment, it is important to remember the duty of all of the planet’s current residents, as stewards of the environment we have inherited. To quote an internationally known author (and a great wizard), “The rule of no realm is mine, ... great or small. But all worthy things that are in peril as the world now stands, those are my care. And for my part, I shall not wholly fail of my task, though [all] should perish, if anything passes through this night that can still grow fair or bear fruit and flower again in days to come. For I also am a steward. Did you not know?” (J.R.R. Tolkien.)

Tomme R. Young  
*Editor*