

1995 - THE 25TH VOLUME

While planning the first issue for 1995, our publisher reminded us of something we had not noticed - that this would be the start of the 25th volume and 20th year of Environmental Policy and Law.

On the one hand, this anniversary is nothing special - we are still young. On the other, it represents more than one would imagine at first glance : If all the volumes are seen together, then it is surprising how much we considered important to publish in our particular field. Which leads back to the beginnings of the Journal: To our perspective then and what, in fact, we have been able to achieve.

Our original and present intention was not to publish yet another academic law journal. Our main purpose from the start was to pinpoint new developments, to participate in the ongoing discussion of current problems, and to publish material in the "Selected Documents" section not easily accessible. Our "model" was more that of the political magazines with their short, up-to-date reports, in spite of the fact that our field of activity is not quite comparable to theirs. In addition, we also had to take into account that we are depending on a voluntary network. The result is a very important one. As we do not pay "fat fees" (or indeed, anything at all !), we depend solely on the good will of friends and colleagues active in the field of environmental policy and law, both on their judgement and the emphasis they put on certain topics.

When we see or hear outside reactions to the Journal, we are pleased to note that it is receiving some positive comments. We get not only requests for information, but are cited surprisingly often also in serious academic publications. The pages of our "Selected Documents" are - sometimes even with permission - copied many times. Indeed, we have seen them used as reference material in conferences and negotiations.

Together with our publications on "Multilateral Treaties" and "International Environmental Soft Law" - and, in future, the continuation of the environmental policy documents collection started by Rüster and Simma - we are covering what is needed by decision, policy or "study" makers.

However, at the same time we are very aware of the gratitude we owe to the whole network - the authors, the advisers, the publisher, colleagues, and last, but certainly not least, the subscribers.

Our wish for ourselves is that we shall in the future continue to receive the necessary help and criticism from all concerned, to enable us to accomplish what we are aiming for. Our wish for our readers is for a happy and successful 1995.

- Wolfgang Rüster -

8 December 1994