

# EDITORIAL

*This is being written on the day before going to Nairobi for the 21st session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which starts tomorrow.*

*We have already received a large number of conference documents but for us, "The Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century" (Montevideo III, see also page 25), will be the most important point on the agenda – and we hope, a successful one. We shall report on developments in the next issue.*

*However, it is not so much the task of an editorial to express hopes – otherwise we could fill pages – as to comment on facts. So before the recent US elections we expressed no wishes concerning the possible outcome. But we can now already note some of the results. For example, the fact that the White House will apparently approve a plea from California for the suspension of federal air pollution regulations, because of severe electricity shortages. The power stations will then be able to run at full blast without the risk of any penalties. Unfortunately, there are rumours that in other areas environmentally damaging changes will follow. One of those mentioned is that commercial activities will again be permitted in wilderness areas.*

*During the election campaign, the Bush team said little about environmental policy. The US-based "International Environmental Reporter", published by the Bureau of National Affairs, writes in its latest issue, "New President's Agenda Unknown."*

\*

\*

\*

*In all international conferences concerned with environment and development matters, discussions are underway on the outcome of the Rio+10 Conference, which will take place in Johannesburg 2002 (see also the relevant UN General Assembly resolution on page 63).*

*This year's sessions of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development will have a slightly different format. Following the intersessional meetings in March, the CSD-9 session (16-27 April), will not only be followed by the election of the Bureau of CSD-10, but also by several days of preparatory work for Rio+10. Various meetings will follow later, with the final one taking place in Indonesia, just before the Johannesburg Conference.*

*As always, we consider it our primary duty to inform our readers of the results of all these events as quickly as possible.*

3 February 2001

*- Wolfgang R. Steury -*

*Post deadline information: The Governing Council of UNEP has adopted the Montevideo III Environmental Law Programme unanimously, after the Committee of the Whole approved it by acclamation.*