

EDITORIAL

This issue once again illustrates the variety of topics in the field of the environment. Although, the fact that we limit ourselves mostly to legal and policy matters does not allow us to cover everything that happens in this area. Sometimes we have to base our decisions on what to include on the importance or urgency of the matters we want to report on, even if not in detail. We have had to do this again for this issue, by acknowledging that for us the goal of sustainable development is our prime consideration. We can confirm this stance also with regard to the first issue of next year.

Although we have sometimes been asked to announce in advance what would be published in the next issue, we have generally omitted this, recognising the fact that unexpected or re-oriented events could alter the priorities.

One thing that does continue to surprise us is that we rarely receive letters to the Editor on any of the themes we cover, even though we are known to accept criticism.

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The flow of information within the UN family has again improved, and we shall try to let you know very soon what decisions the ongoing 57th UN General Assembly has taken.

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UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed Franz Baumann (Germany) as Director of the Administrative and General Services Department of the United Nations Office in Vienna. The Secretary-General has also appointed Catherine Bertini (USA) as new Under-Secretary-General for Management in New York, as successor to Joseph Connor.

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It is very sad to let a good friend go – the word “good” meant in the very broadest sense. In the report on the GEF Second Assembly (see page 284) you will read that Mohamed El-Ashry will leave us. We have still no idea who is able to replace him.

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One last thought at this time: We wish our Advisory Panel member Hans Blix all the very best in his difficult peace-or-war deciding mission.

- Wolfgang R. S. -

21 November 2002