

EDITORIAL

The International Council of Environmental Law was founded in 1969 in view of the increasing need "for coordination of efforts within the field of environmental law, in order to prevent duplication of effort, provide rapid access to relevant information, encourage voluntary efforts by interested persons, . . . and present a comprehensive overview of closely and complexly interrelated developments within the field of environmental law; . . . despite the existing number of decision-making organizations concerned with environmental law, there is no organization devoted solely to the task of coordinating and disseminating information of interest to persons and groups working in this field".

"Such an organization created for the sole purpose of information gathering and exchange, excluding the purpose of making policy decisions, could make a unique and valuable contribution to the field of environmental law . . ." (extract from the statutes of ICEL).

As a logical follow-up to this, Environmental Policy and Law was launched in 1975, as being a contribution to the cause of environmental conservation and has endeavoured since then to be a forum for information and discussion in the field of environmental law, policy and administration.

At the outset, it was felt that 4 issues per annum must be sufficient to keep our readership up-to-date with major international and national developments in these fields. However, during the past 7 years, environmental policy has been gaining increasingly in momentum, resulting in an upsurge in the number of international and national activities relevant to our work. Consequently, there have been many occasions in the past when we would have wished to increase the number of issues, and more particularly, the frequency, instead of being obliged to exclude some topics due to lack of space.

The Editors and Publishers decided recently that the time has now come to publish more frequently, within a strict time schedule, to meet the increasing demand for this type of information. As a result, subscribers will be pleased to learn that we intend to double our output to 8 issues per year, which will not only result in more pages but, more importantly, increased frequency.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have participated in the work of the journal up to now, either by constructive criticism or by the contribution of an article. At the same time, we should like to encourage those who have not yet done so, to participate in the journal's role by responding to particular subjects discussed, either positively or negatively.

As Editors, we promise to continue to do our utmost to ensure a good selection of topics, aggressive commentaries where necessary, and to publish all we think relevant to our work, even if there are times when those concerned would prefer that certain information should not be made public. We feel that this is what makes our journal different from other more academic publications, and compatible with the objectives of ICEL.

No space remains this time for an editorial in the normal sense. However, one last comment should be added: Now that the Montevideo "Conclusions and Recommendations" have been adopted (see page 31), it is clear that environmental law has reached the threshold of a new era, not only on the national and regional, but also on the international level, within and outside the UN family.

We are pleased that this further development of Environmental Policy and Law comes at such an opportune moment. □

Wolfgang Breyer

14 November 1981