

EDITORIAL

Since the last issue of 160 pages, the biggest ever, it is a strange feeling to go back to a "normal" issue:

Indeed, we are surprised, yet again, to have so much to cover that there is no space to include something scheduled - the Third European Ministerial Conference in Sofia, within the framework of UN/ECE (55 States and the EU). We have already reported on the preparatory process in the Committee on Environmental Policy. Some ideas are being mooted there for changing the preparatory process, before the European States go on to the next ministerial conference, hosted by Denmark. The results and conclusions of Sofia will be printed in the next issue.

Also planned for next time is a report on the first session of the CSD Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. In addition, we can already announce that the Third Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, has adopted an amendment to the Convention that will ban the export of hazardous wastes from developed to developing States.

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This Journal was founded by ICEL in 1975. In the same year, we started publishing, with the help of the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, „International Environmental Law - Multilateral Treaties“. This well-regarded loose-leaf publication (7 volumes of treaty texts, together with data sheets showing the status of ratifications, etc., and 3-4 supplements per year), is now being promoted on a much broader international scale. In 1992, we began with the loose-leaf edition „International Environmental Soft Law“, a publication for practical use, intended as a desk reference, especially for legal practitioners. The idea stems from negotiators in international conferences who had started to make their own such reference books, nothing equivalent being available.

This year, with the help of Prof. Nicholas Robinson, ICEL is continuing (as a new series) the loose-leaf compilation of documents of supplementary material, for example, UN resolutions, which are neither hard nor soft law: "International Protection of the Environment", under the specific title of "Conservation in Sustainable Development". The fifth extensive release is on the way.

With this wide-ranging coverage of the environmental policy and law field, incorporating those documents which should be easily accessible and known to our still-increasing family, ICEL is fulfilling a large part of its mandate.

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With this last issue of Volume 25 we would like to thank our subscribers for their continued support and wish them, and all our readers, a very successful 1996.

- Wolfgang Breyer -

1 November 1995