

EDITORIAL

The agreement signed in Paris under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see p. 313) is in force. Although it was beyond our expectations, we all hoped for such a quick ratification process. The United Nations promptly took up the issue, pressuring countries to ratify – an effort that, surprisingly, held appeal for parliaments which quickly put ratification on their respective agendas. As a result, by 5 October enough ratifications had been received from States to bring the Agreement into full force. Enough States have fulfilled the requirements, and already a number of legislators around the world are beginning the process of enacting implementing legislation. Hopefully they will be equally prompt in completing this step. We will report about the progress.

Following the recent elections in the US and the earlier British decision to leave the EU (see p. 330), we have many concerns for the global environment in the coming years. The prompt entry into force of the Paris Agreement reminds us that people of goodwill around the world can still work together to make a difference, even in difficult times.

- Wolfgang R. S. -