

# EDITORIAL

*When the layout for this issue had already been completed, the World Commission on Environment and Development (see also 16 Environmental Policy and Law (1986) at page 96), presented its final report — “Our Common Future” — to the public on 27 April in London. A detailed commentary on the Report is planned for the next issue. In this connection, it is of interest to note that the Report makes reference to the fact that IUCN is drafting a Convention identified as being a major priority area — i.e., on the preservation of biological diversity. The first time, incidentally, that this information has been made public.*

*The Report will now go with the Perspective 2000 document, drafted by the Inter-governmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee (see 13 Environmental Policy and Law (1984) at page 17) to the next session of UNEP’s Governing Council in June 1987 who will then submit all these papers, together with its own comments — through ECOSOC — to the UN General Assembly for its consideration.*

*The Report is a balanced, well-written, easily accessible document. What surprised many people was, that the Commission has not appended a list of recommendations to its six priority areas, but instead has integrated these into the text, describing the circumstances which prompted them. This makes it difficult to disapprove of the proposals without rejecting the Report.*

*Mrs. Brundtland, both the Commission’s Chairman and Prime Minister of Norway (see also 13 Environmental Policy and Law (1984) at page 37) stressed during the presentation that the Report was primarily a political document. In this context, it clearly has value as a vehicle for increasing awareness and initiating action by governments, legislatures and the public world-wide. Where, however, the Report deals with sectoral aspects there is evidence that in some areas — for example, environmental law — the findings of the Report have not been completely thought through to the end.*

*This may be a weakness but can be accepted in view of the necessity of securing a broad consensus. It is clear, therefore, that the reception of the WCED Report by the world community is of importance to us.*

*The Report’s value as a catalyst for action has already been demonstrated by the fact that some experts in this field have already made plans to embark upon the preparation of a Convention setting out not only the sovereign rights, but also the reciprocal responsibilities, of all states for environmental protection and sustainable development as recommended by the World Commission. □*

30.4.1987

*Wolfgang Brune*