

EDITORIAL

By the time this issue reaches our readers, the Second Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development will have closed, and our next issue, containing an extensive report on the work and progress of that session, will already have reached the printers.

Reports of this meeting were in the press, but we found them in many cases to be inaccurate. For example, the New York Times stated that the "Commission made no concrete decisions beyond agreeing to improve preparations for its next session, in 1995." This is, in fact, completely wrong. In addition to the agenda for next year's session, 14 resolutions/decisions were adopted at the end of May by the High-Level Segment which included more than 30 environment ministers. It is a situation such as this, which gives us the urge to publish a newspaper as a full time job, rather than a "slower" journal as a volunteer!

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Although the Editorial of the last issue announced that this time we would report mainly on the CSD, in agreement with our publisher, we have put one more issue in between. In spite of the large April issue, we had so much information which could not have been held over to a later date. Our readers know that we have always tried to avoid being a classical law journal, and to give priority where necessary to important law and policy developments.

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You will also read next time of the final meeting called about consolidating the texts of the Law of the Sea in the different languages.

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The International Whaling Commission has approved a whale sanctuary around Antarctica that will protect the vast majority of the world's whales from commercial exploitation. The sanctuary will stretch from Antarctica to between 40 and 60 degrees South of the equator. There were 23 votes in favour, one vote against (Japan) and six abstentions.

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Martin Uppenbrink left the Office of the UNEP Regional Director for Europe and was already installed as the President of the Federal German Office for Nature Conservation at the end of January. Several candidates were interviewed for the post by Elisabeth Dowdeswell, UNEP's Executive Director. However, it leaked out (and was later confirmed) during the first days of the CSD meeting that one of the delegates would become the ROE's new Director - namely, Hans Alders, the Environment Minister of the Netherlands.

Knowing him as we do, we expect that we shall have to report many times on his activities!

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The International Law Commission is sitting until the 22 July. However, by the close of the next issue, we shall not have the final results. These will therefore be published in the Autumn number.

- Wolfgang R. Steury -

28 May, 1994