

1-1-2005

Editorial Comment

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Recommended Citation

Engsberg, Mark D. (2005) "Editorial Comment," *International Journal of Legal Information*: Vol. 33: Iss. 2, Article 3.
Available at: <http://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/ijli/vol33/iss2/3>

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

This issue of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEGAL INFORMATION (IJLI) contains the proceedings from IALL's 23rd Annual Course, held in Helsinki, Finland and Tallinn, Estonia on August 15-19, 2004. The Annual Course was entitled, *Protecting the Environment: a Challenge across Borders – Legal Issues and Information Resources in Finland and Estonia*. The venues for the course were in two beautiful and convenient locations: the University of Helsinki's Main Building located near the heart of the city, and the conference room at the National Library of Estonia in Tallinn.

The Helsinki/Tallinn Course was successful on all fronts. The venues were wonderful, the social events and excursions provided opportunities to meet with colleagues from around the world, and the conference planners arranged for Finnish and Estonian experts to present a wealth of information on a range of environmental law concerns and other matters.

The IALL has enjoyed many consecutive years of excellent annual courses. Obviously, these events do not organize and run themselves. A team of committed and dedicated planners voluntarily undertakes the daunting task of making all the arrangements for the courses and overseeing the myriad details in the preparation for and staging of these annual events. We owe a special thanks to the coordinators for the 23rd Annual Course: **Sari Pajula**, Library of Parliament (Helsinki), **Giina Kaskla** (Tallinn, Estonia), **Gunilla Hakli**, University of Helsinki Law Library, **Harriet Nyback-Alanen** (Helsinki), and the IALL board liaison for the conference, **Lisbeth Rasmussen**, University of Copenhagen Law Students' Library at the Faculty of Law.

There are seven articles from the 23rd Annual Course in this issue of the IJLI. The articles present material on a range of environmental issues of particular concern in the Nordic regions, as well as material on other subjects. The articles on environmental law are by **Professor Timo Koivurova** of the University of Lapland, **Professor Heiki Lindpere** of the Institute of Law, University of Tartu, Estonia, and **Professor Kari Hakapää** of the University of Lapland. In addition to material on the environment, there is an article on aspects of Estonian legal reform by **Priidu Pärna**, formerly of the Estonian Ministry of Justice, and **Justice Julia Laffranque** from the Estonian Supreme Court presented her paper on the Estonian judicial system and EU law. There is an article describing the excellent website, EISIL, by Jill Watson from the American Society of International Law, and finally, there are the comments of

Merit-Ene Ilja, Director of the Estonian Legal Language Centre, concerning her work with official legal translation and legal terminology in Estonia. In addition to the excellent articles from the 23rd Annual Course, this issue of the IJLI contains the IALL President's Report by **Jules Winterton**, the IJLI's collection of book reviews, edited by **Thomas Mills**, and the International Calendar edited by **Lyonette Louis-Jacques**.

For those who attended the 23rd Annual Course, the material in issue 33.2 of the IJLI will serve as a reminder of that genial social and intellectual experience. And for *all* of the IJLI's readers, I hope you find the material presented in this issue to be substantive and substantial.

*Mark Engsberg, Editor
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