

EDITORIAL NOTE

In accordance with the established manner of the journal, this volume will be partially dedicated to specific issues, this time those dealing with legal history and comparative legal traditions in the Balkans. Bearing in mind a symbolic importance of Vienna, which has continuously connected scholars from Austria and South-Eastern Europe, the Editorial Board of the *Annals of the Faculty of Law in Belgrade (Belgrade Law Review)* is happy to furnish some space to scholars in legal history of Southeastern Europe, who renewed their academic exchange in that city after many years of perturbed mutual contacts.

The participation of the University of Vienna Faculty of Law, who kindly accepted to co-edit and sponsor a part of this volume of the *Annals (Belgrade Law Review)* with the University of Belgrade Faculty of Law, has special significance. It was and still is an institution where many scientists and professors from the region have traditionally acquired their academic titles, contributing in that way to mutual ties and understanding among different nations, getting closer and connecting their intellectual efforts. The goal of this volume is to outline the mainstream topics that lawyers and legal historians from the region are currently working on, to scan the relevant issues, and to provoke further international discussion on various provocative topics dealing with their research and educational studies. There is hope that it may facilitate and foster attempts in creating an interactive academic network in the region and help in renewing scholarly ties after almost two decades of crisis. As one of the oldest and most prestigious law reviews in the region, the *Annals (Belgrade Law Review)* offers with pleasure its pages to that goal, particularly as some contributors and many of their teachers have been publishing their articles in it for many years back. In that way this volume may mark a symbolic revival of cooperation among scholars from the region, now available also to a wider scholarly community through *HeinOnline*, where the *Annals (Belgrade Law Review)* is enlisted.

The editors are indebted to the *Institut für Rechts- und Verfassungsgeschichte* as well as to the *Institut für Rechtsphilosophie, Religions- und Kulturrecht* of the University of Vienna's Faculty of Law, who were

the chief organizers and hosted the reunion, and to all its professors, assistants and the staff involved. Among these especially MMag. Caroline Fally excelled, bearing the main burden of organization as well as assuming the difficult duty of fundraising and proofreading. We are most grateful to Prof. Dr. Thomas Simon, who undertook most of the task of preparing a part of this volume as guest editor. In addition, our thanks goes to Prof. Richard Potz, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law, for his support, to Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Benke from the *Institut für Römisches Recht und Antike Rechtsgeschichte*, as well as to Prof. Dr. Peter Pieler and Prof. Dr. Arnold Suppan, who gave important contributions in person, and all Viennese professors involved in the vivid discussions. We are much obliged to the *Stiftung Living Together in a New Europe*, which with its unusually generous promotion has made the forum possible in the first place. Our thankfulness also belongs to Prof. Dr. Zoran Pokrovac, who leads the project *Rechtskulturen des modernen Osteuropa* within the *Max-Planck-Institut für europäische Rechtsgeschichte*, for all the initiatives and efforts. Finally, the Editorial Board is indebted to the distinguished scholars who accepted to be the co-editors and reviewers of that part of the volume.

Together with the organizers, we express our gratitude to the other supporters, namely the *ERSTE Stiftung*, the *Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung*, the *Bundesministerium für europäische und internationale Angelegenheiten*, the *Österreichische Forschungsgemeinschaft*, the Faculties of Law of the Universities of Vienna and Split, the City of Vienna and the *Wiener Rechtshistorische Gesellschaft*, who have generously helped the reunion in Vienna to be successfully held, and to have this volume published.

Also, the Editorial Board hopes that most of other contributions in the volume could be in some accord with the general topic of the issue, as well as that the contributions dealing with legal history could be of ample interest to the wide-ranging public of the *Belgrade Law Review*.

Editors-in-Chief