

European Labour Law Journal

+ Conference “Future of Labour Law in Europe”
(Brussels, 5 June 2009)



About the European Labour Law Journal

The *European Labour Law Journal* is set to increase and foster the debate on the future of labour law in Europe and to increase the knowledge of labour law, in order to better define the role of labour law in Europe and in light of a European Social Model which can provide solutions for the challenges facing the EU and its Member States, requiring a good combination of economic market performance and quality of life, good work and social justice. In order to contribute to this, the Journal is set to study European labour law in its multiple dimensions, meaning in its national, EU and international contexts. Current and future developments in Europe and the world necessitate a fundamental investigation of labour law in the EU and its Member States, and of the basic principles of labour law in Europe.

The Journal fills an existing gap in the academic community. Although there are many national and some internationally oriented labour law journals, none of them specifically addresses the EU as a central focus of attention, including developments of labour law in the EU at the level of the Member States.

Concept

Since many years, the issue of the future of labour law has been at the forefront of academic and policy debate in Europe. This focus of attention has been increased, notably, with the Commission’s Green Paper on Modernising Labour Law (COM (2006) 708 final, of 22 November 2006).

The view is widespread that the social dimension constitutes a crucial element in European integration. Although the original Treaty framework of European integration could imply a focus on the realisation of the internal market only, it has become widely accepted that economic and social integration must go hand in hand. This double bind of European integration is enshrined in the Treaties and embodied in the European Social Model. However, it also creates a specific policy tension. The EC Treaty's internal market provisions have a strong de-regulatory effect, while promotional and positive social policy interventions remain limited under the Treaty's social chapter, or are triggered in various ways under the employment policy title.

One of the main challenges for European integration is to keep a balance and a synthesis between economic and social integration. This necessity is confirmed in current policy statements. In the words of Vladimír Špidla, the current Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the European social agenda will help to provide what citizens most want: decent jobs and social justice.

At the same time, the European integration process faces many challenges. The Lisbon Agenda's subtitle sets "an agenda for economic and social reform for Europe". Major challenges demand attention to issues like more and better jobs, labour market reforms, participation of old age workers, mobility of labour and services, quality of work and life, non-discrimination, knowledge-intensiveness, competitiveness. It is evident that also beyond the Lisbon goals of 2010, there remain many challenges for labour law in Europe. They relate both to the essential components of labour law and to matters such as labour market law, enforcement law and the distribution of powers between Europe and the Member States, between government intervention and autonomous initiative, between hard and soft regulation, as well as between market freedoms and labour rights.

Scope

The *European Labour Law Journal* aims to be a leading academic journal in the area of European labour law and social policy. European labour law is viewed in a wide sense. It includes labour law at the European Union level as well as labour law in the Member States. It also pays attention to developments of labour law at a more global level and its relevance for the EU and its Member States. These various levels are seen as intrinsically connected and mutually interdependent. The scope of the Journal is confined with:

- EU labour law and social policy taken in its internal and external dimension;
- The interaction between EU labour law and Member States' labour law, including relevant national developments of labour law;
- Developments of labour law in doctrine and policy at a global level and their relevance for labour law in Europe;
- Cross-disciplinary developments relating to social policy and industrial relations and their relevance for labour law in Europe.

Attention is paid to developments at the level of policy, legislation, case law as well as academic doctrine.

The Journal has a privileged partnership with members of the European Commission, the International Labour Organisation, the International Society for Labour Law and Social Security Law, the International Industrial Relations Association, the European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions, and the European Labour Law Network.

The Journal aims at high quality academic contributions that are accepted only on the basis of a double blind peer review.

Outline

The conceptual outline of the Journal is:

- **European labour law contributions**
 - o Two or three academic contributions (between 6.000 and 8.000 words);
 - o These contributions may, for example, 1°) deal with the broad area of EU law and policy relating to labour law; or 2°) be confined with specific national or international developments that are particularly relevant for the EU or EU member states; or 3°) discuss labour law at a doctrinal level, or 4°) deal with cross-disciplinary findings with relevance for labour law in Europe.
- **National labour law developments**
 - o Short and commented/annotated overviews (on average, between 750 and 1.500 words) of relevant developments in national labour law and policy (policy changes, legislation, case law, specific collective agreements, ...).
- **European labour law developments**
 - o Short and commented/annotated overviews (on average, between 750 and 1.500 words) of relevant developments in labour law and policy at European level (policy changes, legislation, case law, specific collective agreements, ...).
- **International labour law developments**
 - o Short and commented/annotated overviews (on average, between 750 and 1.500 words) of relevant developments in labour law and policy at the broad international level (policy changes, legislation, case law, specific collective agreements, ...) and that can be seen as relevant for the debate on labour law in Europe.
- **Book reviews**
- **News**

On an *ad hoc* basis, the editorial board may decide to publish a *thematic* issue.

Timing

The Journal is published 4 times per year.

Specificities

The Journal is published by Intersentia (www.intersentia.be).

The Journal will be available in print as well as on-line and accompanied by a website that is managed by the publisher.

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In cooperation with the *European Labour Law Network* (www.elln.eu)

Call for papers

The Journal welcomes proposals for academic contributions in the described heading of “European labour law” (6.000 to 8.000 words). For more information, please contact Prof. F. Hendrickx at the following e-mail address: F.Hendrickx@uvt.nl or Frank.Hendrickx@law.kuleuven.be

(Postal address: Department of Social Law and Social Policy, Tilburg University, Postbox 90153, 5000 LE Tilburg, The Netherlands).

Launch Conference (Brussels, 5 June 2009)

The Journal will be officially launched at the occasion of a conference on “The Future of Labour Law in Europe”, held in Brussels on 5 June 2009. Details about the conference can be obtained from: F.Hendrickx@uvt.nl or Frank.Hendrickx@law.kuleuven.be .

The publisher

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