

FOREWORD

*Dr. Joseph R. Borg*¹

A short while ago I gladly accepted to peer review one of the contributions featuring in this issue. It is also an honour and a pleasure to have been asked to write this foreword.

In cases like these, the purpose of a scholarly peer review is to submit an author's contribution to the scrutiny of others who are experts in the same field prior to publication in a journal. The peer reviewer chosen has to be well qualified in the field, as well as capable of carrying out an impartial review. The work may be accepted, rejected, or considered acceptable subject to revisions being made before publication. I sought to do just this in my peer review, and therefore trust that the comments I made served to make the contribution even more complete.

Prof. Kevin Aquilina, in his foreword for the first issue of the *ELSA Malta Law Review*, says that the Review 'has attracted contributions from postgraduate students and academics, both local and foreign. This is of course a very good start. But the rhythm of publication and the standards set in the first issue have to be emulated in future issues'. From my point of view this second issue does justice to the first, and augurs very well for the future.

This second issue of the *ELSA Malta Law Review* deals with a number of legal subjects, ranging from family law to human rights law, consumer protection law, health care, banking and financial regulation, electronic communications and environmental/fisheries law. The subject areas dealt with are all very actual, although it is inevitable that the European perspective features prominently in most of the contributions.

The vast and rapid developments that have taken place in these last three decades or so have occasioned the enactment of laws in a number of areas that were completely unregulated before. This Review is another invaluable link in the chain of publications needed in order to help legal practitioners keep abreast of such developments and to get to grips with all the different pieces of legislation that are now finding their place to make part of the Maltese, European, or other legal frameworks. I firmly believe that the Review can furthermore be a means for planting new ideas. Ideas that will definitely find fertile ground amongst law students at our University and elsewhere. Ideas that can, in time, develop into instruments of change.

At this juncture, before concluding, I would like, if I may, to put forward my own views on certain matters which I consider essential for a journal that seeks not only to describe what is, but that delves into the realm of what should be or further still of what can be. The first already has value of itself, the others add even more value.

¹ Dr. Joseph Borg LL.D., LL.M. (Wales) is a senior lecturer with the Department of Commercial Law at the University of Malta. He served as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta between 1999 and 2004 and as Malta's first European Commissioner between 2004 and 2010

- We should actively seek innovative approaches to age old subjects while simultaneously encouraging the development of new ones;
- The pursuit of new challenges that perform accompany the times we are living in should be at the forefront of our research;
- Those who are prepared to challenge the *status quo* by bringing forward their own ideas should be encouraged, not set aside;
- We should not shy away from dealing with subjects that may be polemical or that may rub some the wrong way, albeit we should always seek to be objective in our arguments; and
- We should contribute our own piece to bring about reform where reform is solicited.

My congratulations and thanks to the Editor and to the rest of the editorial team for undertaking such a praiseworthy initiative.