

EDITORIAL COMMENT

In today's climate of financial austerity, cooperation has become not only laudable, but the only way of survival. And in a high-tech environment, it now means instant access to persons and resources beyond city limits and national frontiers, indeed continents and time zones away. Although **Andrew Grossman**, a prolific author and an active voice on the Internet, would rather discuss more burning issues, such as cross-border tax claims or the concept of Islamic land, in "Towards cooperation in access to foreign primary law" he shares with *IJLI* readers the expertise he gained during his systematic survey of the holdings of major European and U.S. law libraries, data gathered for his Master's thesis, as well as for a forthcoming book. Andy, a retired U.S. Foreign Service Officer, resides in London and has published most of his recent writings electronically on *llrx.com*

The border-less society also presents challenges, as witnessed by attorney and scholar **Laura Ferola** of Rome, Italy, whom readers know from her study in v. 28, no 3 *IJLI* (2000) where she compared EU anti-bribery measures with the Italian legal order. In the current issue Laura analyzes the crime problems encountered in the European Union after the elimination of frontiers enabled free circulation of persons, goods, services and capital. The lack of barriers has allowed organized crime to exploit the incongruities of the different juridical systems of the fifteen Member States. The EU being founded on socioeconomic interests rather than the protection of the individual, the article describes the paradox of criminal law being considered the domain of national sovereignty.

The concluding contribution of this first issue of volume 30 describes the history of the slow and difficult international acceptance of an international criminal court. A former entertainment lawyer in New York City, **Rosaria Vigorito**, now *Associate Professor and International Law Librarian at CUNY Law School Library*, offers an introduction and a comprehensive, annotated bibliography of works in English on the impetus and evolution of the establishment of an institution to adjudicate international crimes, such as genocide and other acts against humanity. Originally surfacing in the aftermath of World War I, the plans were put on hold for several decades, until the world community in 1998 voted on the *Rome Statute* to establish an *International*

Criminal Court (ICC.) If ratified by 60 countries, the first permanent international criminal tribunal would be created. Rosaria reports that to date 52 nations have ratified the *Rome Statute*, with the United States being still only a signatory.

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