

ISSN 0165-070X  
Vol. XLVII-2000- Issue 1

# NETHERLANDS INTERNATIONAL LAW REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL LAW  
CONFLICT OF LAWS  
COMPARATIVE LAW

T.M.C. ASSER PRESS

MARTINUS NIJHOFF PUBLISHERS



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THE HAGUE – THE NETHERLANDS

**THE ASYLUM ACQUIS HANDBOOK**  
**The Foundation for a Common European Asylum Policy**  
Edited by Peter J. van Krieken

The *Asylum Acquis Handbook* is a unique and comprehensive tool for those who have a sincere interest in contributing to a sound, common European asylum policy.

Asylum has always been an intensively debated topic, and these days even more so than in the recent past. Virtually everyone has an opinion on the subject and the general consensus is that the European Union should strive for a common asylum policy. Yet, basic information is lacking: while there is talk on an 'acquis', talk on 'communitarization', the various discussions, so far, miss the firm foundation on which to build the common European asylum house.

The *Asylum Acquis Handbook* seeks to fill this gap and serves as an important reference book with in-depth information on asylum-related topics, including:

- an overview of the Acquis
- the texts of the various relevant instruments
- value-free commentaries
- informative contributions, especially written for this *Handbook* by leading experts, and
- additional information and sources.

Noteworthy is the *Preface* with relevant parts of a thought-provoking keynote address, delivered by António Vitorino, EU Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, at the 4th Metropolis Conference, Washington DC, December 1999.

The *Asylum Acquis Handbook* enhances accessibility and transparency and will become an important source for policy makers, the executive, the media, students and all others concerned with the issue of asylum.

Dr. Peter van Krieken's extensive UNHCR background, his role as special advisor on international affairs with the Netherlands Ministry of Justice/INS and his lecturing in international law and human rights at Webster University, Leiden, the Netherlands, made him the most suitable expert to compile and edit the *Asylum Acquis Handbook*. Dr. Van Krieken is actively involved in European asylum policy issues under CIREA, Phare assessment missions and related Twinning, Odysseus and Horizontal Programmes. He is also the editor of the book *Refugee law in Context: The Exclusion Clause*, which was recently published by T. M. C. ASSER PRESS.

ISBN 90-6704-122-X Price NLG 165.00 / USD 87.50 / GBP 54.50 2000, pages: 360; hardbound

**Distributed for T · M · C · A S S E R P R E S S by Kluwer Law International:**

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Recommended citation: NILR

Published three times a year, complemented by the Netherlands Yearbook of International Law, in co-operation with the T.M.C. Asser Instituut, Institute for Private and Public International Law, International Commercial Arbitration and European Law (20-22, Schimmelpennincklaan, The Hague, phone (0)70-3420300), founded in 1965 by eight Dutch universities offering courses in international law. The Institute is responsible for the promotion of education and research in international law, particularly by setting up documentation projects and carrying out research programmes in the fields covered by the Institute.

Indexed in: The *Netherlands International Law Review* is abstracted and/or indexed in the *International Bibliography of Social Sciences*, *IBZ*, *International Political Science Abstracts*.

Rates: Combined annual subscription to the Netherlands International Law Review and to the Netherlands Yearbook of International Law: Dfl. 646.00, shipping and handling included. Subscription orders and requests for specimen copies should be sent to Kluwer Law International, P.O. Box 85889, 2508 CN The Hague, The Netherlands.

Advertising: full page only; size 120 mm x 200 mm. Material: originals or camera-ready copy to be sent to the undermentioned address; closing dates: two months prior to month of publication; for details concerning the price, please contact Kluwer Law International, Sales Department, P.O.Box 85889, 2508 CN The Hague, The Netherlands.

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ISSN 0165-070X

Library of Congress catalogue card number LC 79-65199

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Second-class postage paid at Rahway, N.J.

US *Mailing-Agent:* Expeditors of the Printed Word Ltd., 2323 Randolph Avenue, Avenel, N.J. 00701

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