

## Journal of European Criminal Law Report on first year of publication

---

Towards the end of 2005 the JECL was rather an inchoate notion. The first issue was published in May 2006 and the first year series – Volume One - has now been completed. The first issue of Volume Two will appear in June 2007.

There was a moment of doubt in April 2006, because the minimum number of subscriptions for publication to be viable had not been reached. The minimum number was reached as a result of marketing at the ECBA Spring Conference in Edinburgh.

Since then the number of subscriptions has increased to forty six and according to the publisher this is most encouraging. In fact, the publisher has launched only one journal previously which has outperformed the JECL in the first year.

Subscriptions are spread between university libraries, law firms, bar associations and government prosecution services. Other than that subscriptions have been taken out by subscription agents, so that the actual subscriber is unknown.

As was and still is intended all the General Editors have contributed articles as have many of the Members of the Editorial Board. In addition the first unsolicited articles have now begun to arrive. If this becomes a trend, the pressure on the editors will decrease. It is the founder's intention to continue writing the editorials. Suggestions as to editorial themes are welcome, all the same.

Letters to the editor are also welcome and will be published if they contribute to debate. Indeed, it is worth stressing that where it is not possible to write a full scale article, potential contributors should participate by way of letters to the editor. Much can be said in a page or a page and a half.

Much energy has gone into getting the JECL thus far. No less energy will be required to develop it and increase its circulation. ECBA members can and should help by taking out subscriptions and encouraging others to do so. Likewise they should write for the journal to the extent they can – as said short contributions even in letter form are welcome - and they should encourage others to write as well.

Lastly, we are privileged to have Professor Sir Francis Jacobs QC, former Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Communities, as Honorary Chairman of the Editorial Board. His quiet support for the venture is greatly appreciated. Indeed it serves as a constant acknowledgement that European criminal law is a field of study in its own right and one which embraces a large number of themes, not all of which need necessarily be addressed by criminal defence lawyers.

So we look forward to a successful Volume Two.

Scott Crosby, Brussels, 16 April 2007