

8. THE HISTORY OF THE “ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR LUFT- UND WELTRAUMRECHT, ZLW” (GERMAN JOURNAL OF AIR AND SPACE LAW)

The history of the “Zeitschrift für Luft- und Weltraumrecht”, ZLW (German Journal of Air and Space Law / Revue Allemande de Droit Aérien et Spatial) is an integral part of the history of the Institute since its reconstruction in Cologne by Prof. Alex Meyer in 1951 (see pp. 12 ff.). It continues the tradition of previous publications of the Institute, namely the “Zeitschrift für das gesamte Luftrecht” (Journal for All Aspects of Air Law), which was founded already in 1926/1927 by Prof. Schreiber (see pp. 3 f.) and the “Archiv für Luftrecht” (Archive of Air Law) as edited by Prof. Oppikofer in 1931 (see pp. 5-6).

The ZLW was first published by Prof. Alex Meyer under the name of “Zeitschrift für Luftrecht” (Journal of Air Law) in 1951/1952. Then in 1960 (see p. 19 above) reflecting new technological developments the Journal was renamed as “Zeitschrift für Luftrecht und Weltraumrechtsfragen” (Journal of Air Law and Questions of Space Law). Finally, it received in 1975 its present title and structure under Prof. Böckstiegel (see pp. 24 f.). (As to the ZLW today see pp. 58 ff. infra.) So the Institute looks back to a long-standing publishing tradition and is proud of its current publication which has become an example for a successful international journal in a very specialised field of law.

The ZLW is the only publication of its kind in Germany and one of about half a dozen world-wide. It is edited quarterly and comprises approximately 600 pages a year. From its very beginnings in 1951 the ZLW has been published by the recognised “Carl Heymanns Verlag” (Cologne, Berlin, Bonn, Munich). The Journal gives a detailed and regular overview of problems and new developments in the field of air and space law. The issues contain first of all articles on relevant national and international problems as well as information on new legal drafts and regulations in this special field of law world-wide. The ZLW contains also reports of conferences organised by national or international organisations. Relevant judicial decisions of German Courts as well as from Courts all over the world are reprinted and commented. An international bibliographical survey of new publications is provided. Important books and publications are separately reviewed and analysed. Therefore, since its beginnings the ZLW is an archive of all relevant material in its special field and provides the basis for any practical as well as scholarly work with respect to air and space law.

The first executive editor (Redaktionsleiter) of the Journal was Hubert Wesels, Attorney-at-Law (Cologne), an experienced air lawyer, who was responsible

for the Journal for twenty years. He left the Institute at the same time as Prof. Meyer by the end of 1974. Then the editorship was taken over by the temporary



H. Wessels, Attorney-at-Law
1954 - 1974



Dr. E. Faller LL.M. (McGill), Attorney-at-Law
1975 - 1977



Dr. Marietta Benkö, Attorney-at-Law, Executive Editor since 1978.

13-15. Executive editors of the Zeitschrift für Luft- und Weltraumrecht (German Journal of Air and Space Law) since its beginnings

head of the Institute Prof. Peter Weides and from July 1975 the internationally acclaimed expert in air and space law Dr. Edmund Faller, LL.M., Attorney-at-Law (Cologne), became executive editor. In order to reach an additional international readership the Journal was opened for contributions in three languages and the subtitles “German Journal of Air and Space Law” and “Revue Allemande de Droit Aérien et Spatial” were added. From then on all English and French articles, documents, Court decisions, conference reports and book reviews were published on an equal basis with German contributions.

In the second half of 1978 Dr. Faller left the Institute and became Conseiller Juridique Principal at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal. He was succeeded by Dr. Marietta Benkö, Attorney-at-Law (Cologne) who is also specialised in air and space law in her practical as well as in her scholarly work. For many years Dr. Benkö was lecturing at the University for Applied Engineering in Aachen, teaching space law. Since 1980 she is the advisor of the German Delegation to the United Nations Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS). She, thereby, is dealing with the elaboration of new international legislation: she has been actively involved in the preparation of drafts and negotiations of all legal instruments which have been adopted in this forum during more than twenty years. These are legal principles with respect to the following subjects: Broadcasting by Satellites (1982), Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, the so-called “Space Benefits”-Declaration (1986) and the resolution on the Concept of the Launching State (2004). Dr. Benkö regularly publishes about this work as well as about current problems in the field of air and space law with an international interdisciplinary team of experts. In addition she is the editor of the Series entitled “Forum for Air and Space Law” in co-operation with Prof. Dr. W. de Graaf, Utrecht. The Series comprises 5 volumes and appears at Editions Frontières in Paris. Dr. Benkö is also a Member of the Editorial Board and the Advisory Board of the Series “Utrecht Studies of Air and Space Law” (Kluwer Publishers, The Hague). The establishment of this Series which by now comprises 19 volumes is also due to her efforts and initiatives as a founding member. She is also the editor of “Essential Air and Space Law” (Eleven International Publishing, Utrecht) focussing on interdisciplinary publications. In 1989 Dr. Benkö has also founded the Institute’s publication “Space Law: Basic Legal Documents” together with Prof. Böckstiegel. This loose-leaf collection consists of 4 volumes (approximately 4500 pages) and is updated regularly. Since 2001 also Prof. Hobe is a member of the editorial team. (See pp. 63 ff. below).

In 1996 Dr. Benkö received a special honour for her practical as well as her scholarly work: she was awarded the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande des Verdienstordens) by the President of State Dr. Roman Herzog through the Minister of Science and Research of Northrhine-Westphalia., Ms. Anke Brunn.

For more than 25 years Dr. Benkö, together with the respective Director of the Institute ensures in her capacity of executive editor of the German Journal of Air and Space Law the high scientific standard, independence and objectivity of the publication. She also has to cope with many practical problems which especially universities and independent institutions are faced with: the lack of money and dramatic changes in the publication process through new media and computer technology have to be solved with dedication and improvisation. In this connection the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing offers invaluable help through its long-standing co-operation with the Journal and the fact that the Journal is supported by this Ministry since its re-foundation in 1951. Also with the co-operation of the Publishers “Carl Heymanns Verlag” and the Printing House “Gallus Druckerei” in Berlin issues can be dealt with effectively.

In 2006 the ZLW will celebrate its 55th anniversary as a forum whose relevance has definitely grown into the Third Millennium with inspiration, a clear vision and the courage for conflict and compromise.