

## Preface

International Congresses of the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL) present and discuss general reports on specific issues that are based on and enriched by national reports. The general reports are always published by the convenor of the International Congress, whereas the publication of national reports depends on the initiative of others. Heads of National Committees make a call for papers in their country and communicate to the Secretary General who is willing to write a national report. The Secretary General communicates the interest of a scholar to write a national report to the respective general reporter, who then sends each national reporter a questionnaire that is supposed to be answered in a national report. This procedure was also followed during the preparations of the upcoming XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the IACL, which will take place in Washington, from July 25 until August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

Much to my surprise, my call for papers throughout the law faculties in Austria aroused widespread interest of scholars from various branches of law. When I suggested publishing the Austrian contributions in a separate volume in order to reach a broader scope of readers, all national reporters agreed. Most of them decided to abandon the structure and content framed by the questionnaire of the respective general reporter and wrote a new contribution for this purpose. The contributions are printed in the order of the IACL-Congress' program.

Thanks to the generosity and the tolerance of the publisher, no Austrian author was urged to limit his/her paper to a specific number of words. Jan Sramek, Verlag Sramek/Vienna, endured everything that a publisher may experience when a book must be published before the big event - the XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the IACL in Washington 2010 - takes place. I thank him very much for his advice, discipline, openness and, last but not least, for publishing all the contributions.

This brings me to the authors, who, by and large, bore my various suggestions with patience and humour. I thank them, too. As a comparative and conflicts lawyer I acknowledge the growing interest in comparative endeavours. It surely belongs to the nicest professional observations one can make at all.

Finally, when Prof. Svák, head of the Slovak National Committee, which was set up in 2009, informed me that only one Slovak contribution had been handed in. I offered him to publish it in this volume. Readers eager to learn more about Austrian scholars and Austrian law are, therefore, invited to have a look across the border.

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