

Christoph Bezemek

Wolfgang Benedek, Florence Benoît-Rohmer, Wolfram Karl, Manfred Nowak (eds.), *European Yearbook on Human Rights 2010*, Neuer Wissenschaftlicher Verlag, 2010, ISBN 978-3-7083-0688-9, 358 pp.

In 2010, the second *European Yearbook on Human Rights* has been published; a joint effort of 30 international scholars, journalists and practitioners to discuss developments in European Human Rights protection for the reference period (2009) as well as questions of principle.

Opening with a part addressing the "Topics of the Year" (pp. 19-84) the book is structured according to an institutional approach – addressing developments in the EU (pp. 85-193), in the Council of Europe (pp. 195-284), and the OSCE (pp. 285-329). A fifth part is dedicated to "Civil Society/NGOs/Cross-Cutting-Issues" (pp. 321-352).

Of course, not all contributions can be mentioned or even addressed in a short book review. A mere selection of the yearbook's articles may, however, sufficiently demonstrate both its scholarly importance as well as its comprehensive character.

In part one, *Thomas Hammarberg* ("Respecting the Rights of Migrants in Today's Europe: A Call for Action" pp. 21-30) and *Florence Benoît-Rohmer* ("Completing the Transformation: Values and Fundamental Rights in the Treaty of Lisbon" pp. 49-64), for example, dedicated their contributions to topics which, – though for different reasons and from differing perspectives – did indeed shape the European Human Rights discourse in the reference period.

In part two (EU), *Wolfgang Benedek* offers an instructive insight into the "EU Action on Human and Fundamental Rights in 2009" (pp. 87-108); *Hannes Tretter*, the European Agency for Fundamental Rights' Vice-Chairman, and *Anna Müller Funk* provide a valuable introduction into the Agency's work ("The European Agency for Fundamental Rights in 2009: Opportunities, Responsibilities and Prospects" pp. 109-121).

In part three (Council of Europe), *Brigitte Ohms* depicts "[t]he Coming into Force of Protocol No. 14 and the Short but Very Successful Life of Protocol No. 14bis to the European Convention on Human Rights" (pp. 207-221) which provides for great procedural and even greater structural amendments to the Convention.

Ženet Mujić discusses "[t]he OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media – an Intergovernmental Watchdog: an Oxymoron?" (pp. 309-319) in part four; a very important function as has been demonstrated explicitly by the recent developments in Hungary.

Almost at the dawn of the revolutions in Northern Africa this year, *Siham Bensdrine* (pp. 323-334) raises an unmasking question in part five: "Les valeurs démocratiques européennes à l'épreuve de la realpolitik: les accords d'association Tunisie-UE – modele ou caricature?".

Of course: Such an overview may allow only a quick glance at a publication's content. Unfortunately, it is not sufficient to illustrate the importance of this (regular) contribution to the scholarship in the field of regional human rights protection. Its structure and the topics chosen make it an essential part of academic libraries. A book to be read.

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