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Law Shall Build the Land

This fourth edition of the Faroese Law Review contains two articles which in different ways treat some quite important aspects of Faroese Law. Kári á Rógvi discusses the financial powers of the state – in particular those of the Faroese ‘semi-state’ – as they relate to law, not least constitutional law. Kári á Rógvi’s article is based on a paper he prepared for the Faroese Constitutional Commission, a forum commissioned by the last Government to elaborate a proposal for a Constitution for the Faroe Islands. The article, by Birita Ludvígsdóttir Poulsen, analyses the reasons why the European Social Charter has not yet been ratified by the Faroese authorities, despite continuing pressure from the Danish Government. Birita L. Poulsen’s article is based on her dissertation for a Master degree in International Law at the University of Southampton.

In judicial and constitutional terms, the Faroes are an interesting place to be these days. The University of the Faroe Islands in Tórshavn is gradually establishing, or rather reestablishing, a course in Law – generously supported by good friends at the University of Iceland Law Department in Reykjavík, with whom the Faroese university has recently contracted an agreement on cooperation and support.

Another significant development is the new Faroese Government’s (formed in June this year) decision to establish a Faroese Ministry of Justice. Until now the Government’s Legal Department was only a section of the Faroese Prime Minister’s Office. The Legal Department has been growing, and will later this year be formed officially as a ministry in its own right, headed by

the Minister of Justice, Høgni Hoydal, who is also Deputy Prime Minister in the Faroese Cabinet. The main reason for this new ministry is that the Faroese Government is now negotiating with the Danish Government for the transfer of the police force and the legal system, including the courts, from Danish to Faroese authority.

As if the above mentioned weren't enough, the Faroese people can now look forward to a brand new constitution for their nation. Originally a Constitutional Commission was formed in 1999. It started the process, and managed to dig deep in various complicated fields, but wasn't able to finish the job before the general election in April this year. A reborn Constitutional Commission will now continue this immensely important task.

In the midst of these innovative and challenging developments, we, the editors, though not overestimating the power of learned argumentation, see the Faroese Law Review as a natural part of the important process of constructing a Faroese legal system, for as the age-old expression goes – *við lógum byggja land*, Law Shall Build the Land and vice versa. We therefore invite anybody with views on any of these vast topics to share them by contributing to our humble journal. We invite ARTICLES, presented in standard scholarly form. We also welcome shorter contributions in the form of NOTES of 4-5 pages, which may be less comprehensive with respect to scholarly treatment and use of references. We also invite submission of LETTERS of under 3 pages, such as comments on earlier contributions in this journal, or on other developments of interest in the general area of Law and Government. We welcome all good material in English, any Scandinavian language, and of course Faroese.