

The Law Review as a Public Square

With this issue, the fourth volume of the Faroese Law Review is completed. The last few issues have been delayed to some extent but that is difficult to avoid under current conditions with only voluntary staff that all have other pressing duties. However, the forthcoming fifth volume will, hopefully, be completed on time.

One purpose of the Law Review was originally to create a forum where people with a keen interest could discuss legal and political questions of special relevance to the Faroe Islands. Now that four volumes are on the shelf, it is almost five years since it was undertaken to establish the Law Review. It then seems to be timely to pose the question whether the purpose has been realised and the Law Review indeed has become a public square to where the Faroese draw near when they have something on their mind concerning law and government. If we consider the fact that authors have seldom received replies or comments in later issues, it is hard to say that the public square ideal has been realised as set out from the beginning.

One reason that the Law Review has not become a place of discussion can be that only three issues in each yearly volume are too few to get a back and fourth discussion going. Another contributing reason can be that the rather long articles can stifle writers who are inclined towards short notes with fewer citations. The editors have long tried to encourage contributors to submit shorter articles, often referred to as notes. The article submitted by Jens Wang in this issue on telecommunication in the Faroe Islands and the European Union is an impressive example of how this can be done. Hereby, we encourage others to feel inspired by the example and come forward.

As the infrequent issues of the Law Review seem a less than perfect medium for initiating debate amongst people skilled in law and government, the board of editors will take other steps to create the functions of the public square that cannot be achieved by the written word alone.

The Law Review has already with celebrated success organised scholarly debates forums in the more literal sense; but in the future, the board plans to make public discussion a regular feature whenever the issues are published. The intention is to invite to a reconstructed public square meeting where the writers take part in a discussion on their publications. The articles submitted by Trinemia Johannesen and Kristina Samuelsen, concerning public sector foundations and parliamentary staff respectively, are examples of excellent topics for public debate. With any luck, people will then return home to their dusty desk on the loft and with inspiration compose their reply for the next issue.

The first printing with a new and improved layout and logo, which the architect Eyðun Eliassen has created, also marks the last issue in the fourth volume.