

personal and critical opinion. Conversely, the book is less useful for practitioners and others looking for an advanced analysis of the topic.

Dita Sole

Peter J. van Krieken (ed.), **The Migration Acquis Handbook**, The Hague, TMC Asser Press (2001), pp. i-xv and 1–429.

Peter J. van Krieken (ed.), **The Asylum Acquis Handbook**, The Hague, TMC Asser Press (2000), pp. i-xvi and 1–358

Both books by the same editor pursue an ambitious goal. The subtitles are ‘The Foundation for a Common European Migration Policy’ and ‘The Foundation for a Common European Asylum Policy’, respectively. To achieve his goal, the editor first draws on support from sources such as the UNHCR Vienna, the Phare team of the EU, the Dutch Ministry of Justice, and the Dutch Chapter of the Society for International Development. Secondly, the editor uses an innovative concept, which combines textbook-style explanations, compilations of relevant documents, and commentary.

Overall, the concept is successful. Practitioners, policy makers, NGO activists, academics, and students will find that the books are indeed handbooks. In one volume, they bring together a wealth of information that is otherwise not easily available or at least very tedious to find. Anybody working in the field will want to have these books nearby at all times and will appreciate how much time and effort can be saved with their help.

The Asylum Acquis Handbook first contains contributions by various authors on issues such as the history and context of the EU asylum acquis, the harmonization of asylum and immigration policies, decision-making in Justice and Home Affairs, the Amsterdam Treaty’s impact in the field, the enlargement process, and the various actors and sources of law in the field of asylum.

Subsequently, the various lists of documents belonging to the EU asylum acquis are presented. There follows the text of the 26 most relevant documents and the ‘authoritative’ commentaries by the EU Commission on nine of them. Finally, there are a number of additional documents, cross references to ExCom Conclusions and other UNHCR materials, as well as a most useful annex, where important key words and phrases are listed together with precise references to the documents where they are defined or used.

The Migration Acquis Handbook follows largely the same structure. It begins with the ‘Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on a Community Immigration Policy’ of 2000. Subsequently, there are contributions by the editor and his team on aging and demography, globalization, illegal migration, trafficking, and family reunification. The next chapter contains

some 70 documents or excerpts of documents, including many relevant recommendations and other soft law sources, that are particularly hard to obtain otherwise. Finally, there are also the most relevant international documents, in particular from the Council of Europe, the ILO, and the UN. At the end of the Handbook, there is a glossary which is, however, not quite as useful as the cross-reference section in the *Asylum Acquis Handbook*, since it does not include references to the documents where the respective terms are quoted or defined.

The quality of the two books is beyond question. They deserve to be widely purchased and to become handbooks in the true sense of the word. Two suggestions shall nevertheless be made. First, the value of the books for academic writers and students, in particular, could be improved in future editions by more systematic references to academic writing and analysis in the field. This may be less relevant for practitioners, but they can also benefit from such kind of references when working on ambiguous and difficult concepts and when drafting strategy papers and the like. Secondly, the specific usefulness of the books is their rather complete compilation of all relevant documents as of 2000 or 2001. As is well known, migration and asylum are very dynamic fields and new recommendations, decisions, and conventions are being negotiated, adopted and entering into force all the time. Thus, the editor should consider establishing a website where these kind of documents can be found until they are incorporated in a new edition.

Frank Emmert

Van der Heijden/Tahzib-Lie (eds), **Reflections on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – A Fiftieth Anniversary Anthology**, The Hague/Boston/London, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers (1998), pp. 1–344

It may seem awkward to review a book that has been on the market for four years. In this particular case, the trigger is a statement made by Michael Glennon, a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. According to Glennon, in the *Financial Times*, 6 May 2002, the world should finally acknowledge that the international law prohibiting the use of force by states in their international relations is but fiction and has no binding value. This claim is supported by statistics attesting to the innumerable violations of the prohibition of the use of force, which have the effect of desuetude on the principle. Verbatim, Glennon claims, 'Of humanity's great civic and economic *experiments* of the 20th century, none was more majestic in design or *tragic* in consequence than the effort to subject the use of force to the rule of law.' (emphasis added)

During the same week as Glennon's editorial, the White House announced that it will renounce the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, claiming that