COMPENDIUM OF CASE LAW RELATING TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES by H.J. Everse, H. Sperl and J.A. Usher North — Holland Publishing Co., Amsterdam and New York, 1978, pp. 561 and xiv.

The Court of the European Communities is rapidly becoming one of the busiest tribunals in the world, while its jurisprudence is perhaps more significant than that of any other commercial court, no matter however highranked that court may be. In the first place, the decisions of the European Court are binding in the countries of the Community, they overrule inconsistent municipal decisions and they have been known to change the municipal law of a member country, even to the extent of creating new torts, see, for example, Lord Denning's remarks in *Application Des Gaz S.A.* v. *Falks Veritas Ltd.* [1974] 3 W.L.R. 235. Moreover, municipal courts of the member countries are obliged to refer issues arising before them to that Court if they consider problems concerning the Treaty of Rome to be in issue. This means that those concerned with the law of the European Community are now compelled to refer not only to the judgments of the European Court, but must also look to national jurisprudence, including, since one of the aims is to produce a uniform law, the practice of foreign tribunals too.

The Assistant Registrar of the Court and his colleagues perform a valiant service when they make available a *Compendium of Case Law Relating to the European Communities*, covering for each year the practice of the European Court and of tribunals in the member countries to the extent that these are relevant. So comprehensive is their coverage that the table of cases of the European Court extends over 60 pages, while those for the courts of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and the United Kingdom cover a further 36 pages, and all this for the year 1976. As if this were not enough, there is also a cumulative table of 60 pages for the years 1973 to 1976, that is to say for the whole period since this *Compendium* began. For the common lawyer, however, there is a difficulty in so far as his use of these tables is concerned. Instead of appearing in the familiar *A.* v. *B.* form, the cases are listed chronologically, without, in the case of the national decisions at least, any apparent cohesion. In the case of the United Kingdom, we find, for example, "*National Insurance Commissioner (25 July 1975) Case* No.: C.S.1/75; Subject: Interruption of payment of sickness benefit whilst the claimant was abroad for family reasons; Report: [1976] 1 C.M.L.R. 502; Regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71 of the Council: Article 22 (1807)", or "Queen's Bench Division (25 March 1976) Parties: *Trendtex Trading Corporation* v. *Central Bank of Nigeria;* Subject: Sovereign immunity invoked by the Central Bank of Nigeria in an action relating to its obligations under letters of credit; Notes: Reversed on appeal, [1977] 2 W.L.R. 356; Report: [1976] 1 W.L.R. 868; Lome Convention: Article 4 (1688), Article 62 (1688)". The European Court decisions are listed in accordance with the case number, but the statement of the subject tends to be much longer and there is also a note as to the language in which the decision was delivered.

The main portion of the book is devoted to indicating the law of the Treaty as interpreted and applied by the European Court, followed by national courts, the reports being in accordance with the Articles of the Treaty of Rome, the Regulations of the Community and the like. In this way, one is able to follow the gradual evolution of European law by the Court of the Communities itself, as well as the manner in which its decisions have affected national law and jurisprudence. Moreover, by giving details of national jurisprudence, the significance of comparative law as a discipline and an aid to study becomes extremely clear.

For those interested in the development of European commercial law, the *Compendium* will prove a veritable *vade mecum* and, once the user has accustomed himself to the method of listing, he will be able to find his way around without undue difficulty. For those who are not accustomed to this method and for students who will undoubtedly find an alphabetical list more useful, perhaps one may appeal to the compilers as well as the publishers to add yet another table to their lists of cases.

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