

*International Economic Law*. By ASIF H. QURESHI. [London, Sweet & Maxwell, 1999, xxvii and 416 pp. (inc. Index). ISBN 0-421-60410-7. No price given]

THE foreword to this book uses the trade consequences of the dispute between the EU and the US and other dollar-zone banana producers to question the existence of international economic law and, if it exists, the effectiveness of that law. What the author achieves in the book is not only to prove the existence of international economic law but also to point to areas of increasing effectiveness of that law whilst highlighting areas where further work is needed.

Part I of the book is concerned with some of the fundamental and introductory aspects of International Economic Law, covering such areas as the nature and sources of this law, issues surrounding economic sovereignty, the vexed issue of extraterritorial jurisdiction and the relationship between national and international economic law. The author freely admits that it is not his intention to deconstruct this area of the law or to develop his own distinctive perspective of it. Whilst such an approach is understandable given the breadth of the topics covered in this and other parts of the book, it is to be regretted that in this core area for understanding international economic law greater efforts were not made to deconstruct this area of law. Having said that, it is obvious throughout the work that a distinctive perspective is being developed and it is hoped that future editions of the work will build on the foundations already laid.

Parts II to IV deal with International Monetary Law, International Trade Law and International Development Law encompassing respectively the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation and the World Bank. In these parts the perspective of the first part, which emphasises the interests and needs of the developing countries, comes through quite strongly at times. For example, in the discussion of voting rights in international organisations, the approach of Jackson and others who seek to replicate the voting arrangements of the IMF within the WTO is thoroughly criticised. What this reviewer would have appreciated was a conclusion which would have brought together the various development perspectives from each of the chapters. Such a conclusion would have offered some insight from the author on the nature and value of a more integrated approach by the international institutions to the issue of sustainable development, especially as efforts to promote such an approach, for example, within the WTO are continuing despite the failure of the recent Seattle Conference.

The author is to be commended for this, the first UK textbook on international economic law; an area of law which is becoming increasingly relevant in both practice and legal education. The style of writing is, given the complicated nature of the area, lucid and the treatment offered is comprehensive, so providing those seeking more information with an excellent starting point. Future contributions to this growing area of law will have to measure themselves against this book. As a benchmark, the author has set a good standard and it is hoped that future editions of this book, and other works in this area, will continue to build on that standard.

J. McMAHON

*Derecho internacional del medio ambiente*. By JOSÉ JUSTE RUIZ. [Madrid: McGraw-Hill, 1999. xxiv + 479 pp. ISBN 84-481-2086-8. No price given]

INTERNATIONAL environmental law in the past few years has witnessed an increase in the number of books published on this subject. The addition of a textbook in Spanish is to be welcomed as an addition to existing works in this area, which are mainly, but not exclusively, in English and French.