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It is a great pleasure for me to see that “Die Verwaltung” is the German quarterly administrative law journal to take part in the network *Ius Publicum*. First of all, on behalf of all co-editors and also on behalf of our publisher, Dr. Simon of Duncker und Humblot, Berlin, I want to express my gratitude for that occasion.

If we want to have a closer look at the intentions we could follow within the network, it is most useful to consider the character and purpose of “Die Verwaltung” which I would like to sketch as a journal rooted in tradition and open for modern developments.

Rooted in tradition: The journal was founded in 1968 by no-one else and no-one less but *Ernst Forsthoff*, who edited it until his death in 1974. We all allude a certain line of tradition to this name, but we also have to be aware that it was already in *Forsthoff's* time that the journal was open from the law strictly speaking to administrative science, or, as it was called at that time in Germany, *Verwaltungslehre*.

Open for modern developments: The journal has always adhered to this interdisciplinary tradition, and this alignment was supposed to open it up towards European developments within the emerging *ius publicum europaeum*. Whoever is interested in German administrative law will find – alongside articles on current topics – in-depth overviews about the case-law in a certain administrative legal field that are elaborated by a team chosen from leading scholars including professors (and sometimes practitioners) from outside the board of editors. The journal intends to review all relevant publications in administrative law scholarship in Germany. If we take a closer look at the last few years, the number of books reviewed from other European countries is continually rising. There are also more and more short articles by (sometimes young) scholars from outside Germany.

You may be aware that there is a great discussion in Germany about the reform, transformation or modernisation of administrative law, and the acting President of the

Bundesverfassungsgericht, Professor Dr. Andreas Voßkuhle, even went so far as to proclaim the era of a “New Administrative Law”. Whether one shares this view or not, we are all aware of profound changes that administrative legal scholarship is undergoing at present. We are the more convinced that the project of adapting administrative law to the needs of our time needs strong and continuous comparative efforts. Members of our editorial board are chairing or participating in multi- or binational European research groups. Comparative analyses are routinely integrated in our work. We have a strong interest in reinforcing this method in our subject, so we will try our best from our side to make the network *Ius Publicum* a success.

Matthias Ruffert and Katja Frey