After a period of illness, Professor Henry Schermers died on 31 August. Until shortly before his death he had been actively involved in teaching and research. He was a renowned personality in European law circles, a valued teacher for generations of students, and a dear friend to many of his colleagues.

After completing his law studies at Leiden University, Schermers joined the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1953. During his first years of employment at the Ministry he also prepared his PhD thesis, under the supervision of Professor Van Asbeck. The work of Van Asbeck was a powerful inspiration for Henry Schermers. In particular, two themes in Van Asbeck’s work, the structure of international society and the position of the individual in international law, drew his special interest and became central themes in his own work. In 1957, Schermers defended his thesis, on the subject of the specialized agencies.

In 1963, Schermers left the Foreign Ministry and became a professor at the University of Amsterdam. In 1978 he returned to Leiden University, where he was a professor of the law of international organizations until his retirement in 1993. However, Schermers was not ready for retirement in 1993. On the same day on which he delivered his farewell lecture, he also gave his inaugural lecture on accepting the Van Asbeck Chair of Leiden University, where he remained active as a part-time professor in human rights until 2002. But even after his second farewell lecture in June 2002, Schermers continued to be involved in many university activities. His incredible energy and enthusiasm for his work were closely connected to his deeply felt sense of duty towards society.

Schermers’ publications essentially cover three fields of law: the law of international organizations, European law and human rights law. His *magnum opus* in the first mentioned field is his *International Institutional Law*, the first edition of which appeared in 1972. This work brought him broad international recognition. When the initiative for this journal was taken, he joined the Advisory Board and wrote the first contribution to the first issue. Within European law he is known in particular as one of the pioneers in the area of legal protection. Together with Laurens Jan Brinkhorst he published in 1969 the first edition of *Judicial Remedies in the European Communities*. In the area of human rights law he published as early as 1962 the first edition of a Dutch commentary on the European Convention on Human Rights. His work in this field was
later stimulated by his membership of the European Commission of Human Rights, which lasted from 1981 to 1996. Schermers’ publications often bear a somewhat idealistic character, no matter whether they deal with the promotion of international cooperation, European integration or the protection of human rights. However, at the same time, his approach is always a practical one: structures and rules should not be aims in themselves but must be suitable to be effective in practice. His international reputation was confirmed when he became a member of the Institut de Droit International and when he received two honorary doctorates.

Alongside his research, Schermers was a born teacher. He interpreted this task very broadly: not only teaching the law in classes and lectures, but attentively supervising students during their undergraduate and postgraduate years, encouraging and assisting them to study abroad or to do internships, and discussing with them their future career plans. In doing so, he put to good uses his international reputation – Schermers was a “networker” in the best possible sense. As a teacher, Schermers succeeded in dealing with the problem of the rapidly increasing numbers of students during the 1970s and 1980s. In the Netherlands his initiative to establish Mordenate College in the 1980s received considerable public attention. For admission to this college, students were to have obtained on average a grade of “more than eight” in their first year of law studies. Each of these students received a hand-written letter in which Schermers invited them to become a member of Mordenate College. Within the context of Mordenate, special activities are organized. At the time, the establishment of Mordenate was rather controversial in the egalitarian Dutch society, where it was more appreciated if additional activities were undertaken for not-so-brilliant students. However, Schermers’ view was that he always spent the least time teaching brilliant students, as they never had to retake exams and never needed additional explanations in class, so in fact it was only fair to take this initiative.

But Schermers certainly was not a professor only for the most brilliant. He was a professor for all students - from their first footsteps at Leiden University (he offered an optional first-year course on human rights) to their graduation. He also stayed in close touch with many students even after they left university. All those who prepared a PhD thesis under his supervision will recall the evening before their official public defence, when they were invited to dinner at the home of Henry Schermers and his wife Hotsche, together with partner, parents and the two paranimfs.

Schermers’ impressive personal commitment to research and teaching, his unselfish attitude and his sense of duty merged when he announced in his