BLANKENBURG and BRUINSMA have made a nice and very short book including interesting figures on for example recent crime rates. The book can not be considered as teaching-material, but it can be of great interest to foreigners who would like to know something more about the Dutch legal system.


The Future of European Social Policy.
Edited by Lammy Betten

The Maastricht Summit of december 1991 showed that it will take a very long way to reach an all member-states agreement on European Social Policy. The problems in creating and expanding a unified Social Charter are not new. When the Community Social Charter on Fundamental Social Rights was signed in December 1989 by eleven of the twelve leaders of the EC-Member States, the discussions on an EC social policy had already passed their peak and other events such as the unification of the two Germany's dictated Community policy for quite some time. It became clear very soon that the status of the Community Charter was very unclear because only eleven of the twelve states had signed it. The Commission's President Delors had already pointed out that the Community Charter was not meant to be a legally binding instrument. The Commission itself took it to be an instrument upon which to base new initiatives for a social policy. Before the Charter was signed, the Commission presented a Social Action Programme. One year later just a few of the proposals were actually sent to the Council of Ministers.

This short introduction shows the Community's struggle to create the impression that it does accept its social responsibility in view of creating an internal market. These problems are nowadays still relevant as we can conclude from the Maastricht Summit. Although Social Policy and its legal aspects are a fast changing subject this books gives a clear and detailed look on the problems and future of social policy making in Europe. A notable aspect about this book is that it observes the fast changing situation in Europe. The writers ask themselves therefore; what definition has to be used when we talk about Europe nowadays? Do we just have to take a look at the 12 EC-member States or is it important also to look at the States of the "Council of Europe", because of the changing situation in "Eastern Europe"? This is relevant because in the Council of Europe also some Eastern European countries take part. It is interesting to see that this book points out questions to be discussed not only to the desirability of a Community social policy in the context of the creation of a Single Market, but also the effects of EEC social policy on the future develop-
ment of social policy in the framework of the Council of Europe. In view of these and other questions, both the Council of Europe's and the Community's social policies in general and protection of social rights in particular are discussed in the book.

DAVID HARRIS starts off with a critical examination of the functioning of the supervisory system of the European Social Charter (ESC) (Chapter I: The System of Supervision of the European Social Charter - Problems and Options for the Future). If this ESC is meant to play an important role in future European Social Policy it seems essential that the weakness of its supervision system is remedied. Even if the ESC would function perfectly, the EC would not be relieved of its responsibility to create a social policy and to guarantee certain fundamental social rights in its own legal system. The writer quotes some noteworthy suggestions.

TEUN JASPERS describes the views on the European Trade Union Conference (ETUC) and the Union of Confederations of Industry and Employers (UNICE). He presents in more depth an analysis of the issues of vocational training, health and safety at work and worker participation, particularly in the relation to the introduction of new technologies (Chapter II: Desirability of European Legislation in Particular Areas of Social Policy).

The legal basis for the Community to undertake certain steps in the area of social policy, the incorporation of fundamental social rights in the community legal order and the problem of the creation of Community social rights in relation to the already existing norms in the Council of Europe Social Charter is also all given attention to in this Chapter edited by LAMMY BETTEN (Chapter III: Prospects for a Social Policy of the European Community and its Impact on the Functioning of the European Social Charter).

In the last Comment, PIETER VAN DIJK's synopsis puts the discussion in a perspective of a European tryptich, with the European Communities as centre piece, flanked on the one hand by a part representing the Council of Europe and on the other hand by, what he calls, a "tableau de la troupe" of all European States. In this perspective, VAN DIJK critically analyzes the main streams of discussion presented in the book.

To complete the information provided in the book the "Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights," "The European Charter" and the "Additional Protocol to the Charter" are printed.

The most interesting about this book is the special way the papers are presented. Each Chapter is followed by one or more Comments written by a number of distinguished experts in European law and policy. These comments are the views of those who are dealing with the everyday operation of European law and policy. This presentation has lots of advantages because in this manner the reader has on the one side the theoretical part of a Social Policy