Preface

This edited volume has its foundation in the conference ‘New Dynamics in Comparative Law’ which was held at the University of Örebro in May 2007. It is, almost two years after the conference, a great pleasure to be able to present the rich material which the conference generated in book form. While the content as well as the methodology and ideas underlying the conference are presented elsewhere, I would here like to dwell briefly on what this conference meant for the topic of law at the University of Örebro.

Since this is a very young university, where the first professor of law was installed in 2003 and the full legal education started as late as 2005, international conferences of this kind – of which this was the second to be held – are tremendously important, needless to say. Not only may they, hopefully, contribute to making Örebro more well-known as a venue for high-standing legal and scientific discussions. They will also inspire a small, young group of scholars and teachers, who strive to establish a new, untraditional centre of legal education and research.

In fact, legal education in Örebro has always tried to have an international profile, paying more attention to European law, comparative law and public international law than any other Swedish university. Still, in a situation where resources are ever more scarce, old, well-established universities and law faculties may have certain advantages. To put it simply, these are not the easiest times to put new universities on the map.

Against that background, it was a true pleasure to welcome a highly qualified group of international scholars focusing on comparative law, of different ages, gender and origin, to Örebro in May 2007. All the activities during the conference – plenary sessions, work groups and the purely social program – went down really well and the discussions were, undoubtedly, extremely constructive. Therefore, it is an even greater pleasure now to be able to bring the interesting papers and speeches from the conference together in this book, which will hopefully stimulate future debate in comparative law, its methodology, purpose, development and usefulness in various sectors, in the years to come. For the happy fulfillment of this editing process, I wholeheartedly wish to thank not only the writers but also the staff at Edward Elgar, who here once again show their advanced technical skills. For the scientific input, I am of course deeply grateful to my co-editor
and former colleague Professor Antonina Bakardjieva Engelbrekt, then in Örebro, now in Stockholm, though still paying a lot of attention to producing this book. Finally, I wish to thank Maria Carlström-Puhakka for her efforts in preparing the conference and Ms Lise Wällberg for her valuable work in formatting the contributions.

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