

Preface

In 1984, the SER first published its *Voorbeeldreglement voor ondernemingsraden*, a set of model Rules of Procedure for Works Councils, with explanatory notes, designed to help Dutch Works Councils and companies comply with the relevant legislation in a relatively painless way. Since then, this publication has found its way to many companies and organisations in the Netherlands.

During recent years, however, there has been increasing demand for an English version, particularly from foreign companies who have set up in the Netherlands. The book you are now reading – *Model Rules of Procedure for Works Councils* – has been produced in response to that demand.

Ever since its original publication, the Dutch version has been regularly updated to take account of changes in legislation and other developments. The present English-language edition is based on the most recently published Dutch text of the Model Rules, which dates from 1998. Since then, the Works Councils Act has been amended again at a number of points. Appendix E contains the text of this Act as it stands in mid-2003.

To make it easier for companies and organisations to adapt the Model Rules of Procedure to their own particular situation, the full text of the Rules can be downloaded free of charge from the SER website (www.ser.nl).

A properly functioning Works Council is important for the functioning of a company as a whole. I am therefore confident that this publication in English will prove to be very useful for Works Councils and entrepreneurs alike.

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