

# Foreword

## *Chairman of the German Economic Association*

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Take two! After the failure to create a *German Economic Review* in the early 1970s, this second attempt is bound to succeed. An international editorial team, a powerful publisher and the fact that we are now launching an official journal of the *Verein für Socialpolitik*, the German Economic Association, which every one of its 2,800 members will receive, make the difference.

For a German-speaking association that incorporates economists from Germany, Austria and Switzerland and that looks back on a proud history of 128 years of economic research interrupted only by the Nazi period, the choice of the English language for its main academic outlet was not an easy decision. However, the times when John Bates Clark studied in Heidelberg and Knut Wicksell published in German are over, and the earlier this is recognized the better it is for the quality of economic research in German-speaking countries. English is the lingua franca.

The German Economic Association has now decided to open up. We have succeeded in organizing exciting annual conferences with hundreds of contributed papers that meet international standards, we encourage our members to present their papers at international conferences and to publish them in international journals, and we award an annual prize to a young economist with a successful international career. Our most important project, however, is the *German Economic Review*.

The *German Economic Review* will be a bridge between German-speaking economists and the international economic community. Focusing on European topics, it will try to assemble innovative and stimulating papers from all over the world and to serve as a forum for the scientific debate in economics. It will be truly international, aiming at a worldwide readership and avoiding giving any particular preference to German-speaking authors. The experienced publisher and the excellent editorial board that the association has assembled for the start of this new journal are a warranty for scientific quality, sincerity and objectivity.

I am grateful to all of those who have helped launch this new journal, in particular to Bernhard Felderer, who will take care of the journal as managing

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editor, to the members of a committee preparing the transition, and to the staff at the association's bureau who did the background work. My personal thanks also go to Tony Atkinson who paved the way for a satisfactory contract with Blackwell Publishers at a moment when the negotiations appeared to be failing. I wish the readers of the *German Economic Review* good papers, the publisher good profits, and the editors good luck.

*Hans-Werner Sinn*  
Chairman  
Munich, September 1999