

On 3rd June 2008, **Eivind Torp** successfully defended his dissertation “Legal aspects of reindeer herding and the right to natural resources: On the legal regulation of land and resource use on reindeer herding land in Sweden” for the degree of Doctor of Laws at the Faculty of Law, University of Tromsø, Norway. His supervisors have been Professor Bertil Bengtsson of Luleå University, who is a former Justice of the Supreme Court in Sweden, and Senior Lecturer Tore Henriksen of Tromsø University.

As part of his public viva Eivind Torp gave two lectures on 2nd June. The lecture on a subject of his own choice was titled “Judgements of the Norwegian and Swedish Courts on the Rights of the Sami to Graze their Reindeer on Private Land: Some reflections on recent decisions”. The lecture on a topic chosen by the board of examiners was titled “Constructive Jurisprudence for Sami Rights”.

The members of the board of examiners were Professor Gabriel Michanek, Luleå University, Sweden who was the primary examiner; Senior Lecturer Ole Kristian Fauchald, Oslo University, Norway who was the deputy examiner; and Professor Hanne Petersen, Copenhagen University, Denmark who was the third examiner.

Eivind Torp’s dissertation is based on the following seven articles:

- Torp, E. 2004, Fjällen som miljöpolitisk arena – nationella miljömål och samisk renskötsel, [Mountain Regions as Arenas for the Politics of Ecology: National ecological goals and Sami reindeer herding]. – *Nordisk Administrativt Tidskrift* 85 (3): 170-193.
- Torp, E. 2005, Rennäringsens rättigheter i nationalparker och naturreservat [The Rights of Reindeer Herding in National Parks and Nature Reserves]. – *Förvaltningsrättslig tidskrift* 68 (2): 155-192.
- Torp, E. 2002, Sammanhållen rovdjurspolitik? Nationella skyddsbestämmelser och rennäringsens intressen [Coordinated Policies for Carnivores? National regulations for protected species and the interests of reindeer herding]. – *Förvaltningsrättslig tidskrift* 65 (2): 137-174.
- Torp, E. 1995, Naturresurslagen och instrumentet “riksintresse” [Legislation on Natural Resources and the use



of the “National Interest”). – *Miljörettslig tidskrift* 3 (3): 350-367.

Torp, E. 2000, Riksentresset rennärning – vad representerar det och vem företräder intresset? [Reindeer Herding as a National Interest: what is represented and who represents it?] – *Förvaltningsrättslig tidskrift* 63 (5-6): 167-193.

Torp, E. 2005, Högsta tillåtna renantal – Ekologiska och rättsliga aspekter på renskötsel [Limitations on the Number of Reindeer: Ecological and legal aspects of reindeer herding]. – *Förvaltningsrättslig tidskrift* 68 (3): 341-364.

Torp, E. 2003, Rennäringsen som sakägare i bygglovsärenden [Reindeer Herding as an Interested Party in Building Applications]. – *Förvaltningsrättslig tidskrift* 66 (2): 363-372.

Eivind Torp’s dissertation deals with the relationship between reindeer grazing rights and legislation and legal judgements on the environment, i.e. between the complex legal rules that cover reindeer grazing and ecological concerns. The aim of the dissertation is to identify and analyse the developments that have occurred within the legislation and legal judgements on the right to natural resources that affect reindeer herding. The dissertation exam-

ines how the development of legislation and legal judgements in relation to the environment have affected reindeer herding rights, in particular the rights of the Sami under reindeer herding legislation to utilize natural resources.

The study shows that recent legal developments have diminished the status of reindeer herding legislation in the Swedish legal system and that new regulations arising from legislation on the environment have meant a reduction in the rights of the Sami to utilize natural resources. The study also shows that there is a tendency to focus on the commercial aspects of Sami rights regarding reindeer herding at the expense of aspects of civil law. In this context, Eivind Torp discusses whether the right to reindeer herding is simply becoming a commercial right.

Brief biography

Eivind Torp was born in Oslo in 1956 and grew up in Tromsø, northern Norway. In 1981, he received his Cand. mag. (B.A.) at Trondheim University and in 1987, his Cand.

polit. in Social anthropology at Tromsø University. His thesis was on ethno-politics and religious behaviour (Laestadianism) equivalent to Ph.d. (Uppsala University 1998). Between 1988 and 1991 he was a Curator, at the Jämtland County Museum in Östersund, Sweden and from 1991 to 1994 he held a Scholarship from the Swedish Research Council, (HSFR). In 1995 he became a Director of Studies at Mid-Sweden University and in 1997 the Head of Research for the Mountain Research Institute, Mid-Sweden University, becoming its General Manager in 1999. In 2002, he was appointed Project Leader at Mid-Sweden University, a position he held until becoming the Administrative Director of the Faculty of Human Sciences at Mid-Sweden University in 2008.

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