Editor's Note

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This issue marks a new beginning for *Comparative Economic Studies*. Palgrave is our new publisher. We feel that there will be many advantages in this new relationship, ranging from wider dissemination to improved appearance.

Palgrave is already embarking on a programme to increase the circulation of this journal in the US, Western Europe, and Central and Eastern Europe. This will give greater exposure to the articles published in the journal.

While we have had a website in the past, it has been difficult for us to maintain it the way we would like. Palgrave has the resources to improve the website and provide easier access to the materials that are published in *CES*.

Palgrave will also make it possible to improve the appearance of the journal. With the professional staff at Palgrave, we will be able to maintain a more consistent style, use footnotes rather than endnotes, and improve the presentation of graphs and tables.

This issue of *CES* has five articles and a book review by David Laitin. Laitin's review of Stone's book *Lending Credibility: The International Monetary Fund and the Post-Communist Transition* provides further insights into the IMF programme in transition countries and follows the symposium on the 'IMF and Ruble Zone' in the last issue of *CES*. In a similar vein, we encourage our readers to submit comments on articles appearing in the journal.

In the future we plan to publish additional symposia. The June issue will have a symposium on the performance of Russian firms. Saul Estrin is the special editor. The September issue will have papers from the 2002 Dubrovnik conference.

The editors do not have a monopoly on ideas for symposia, so we encourage our readership to submit proposals to us.

Finally, we would like to thank Palgrave for this opportunity. We look forward to working closely together to further improve *CES*.

JEFFREY B MILLER
Editor