

Acknowledgments

The evolution of this book commences several years ago. It is the outcome of innumerable restless hours spent across various cities, particularly Novi Sad, Trebinje, Milan, Cambridge, London, and Washington DC, each of which has had an impact on the ultimate attainment of the manuscript. As is ordinarily the case with gradual, peripatetic studies of this nature, it has benefited from the good judgment of many people.

In particular, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Professor Sir Francis Jacobs, whose works I avidly read as a student and whose infinite kindness has been as inspirational to me as his eminent thinking as a universally distinguished scholar. I would like to thank him dearly for his magnificently refreshing modesty and his wonderful support. I also feel very much indebted to Professor Michael Dougan and Professor Takis Tridimas for a truly enlightening academic discussion, for their treasured words of encouragement and for taking the time to provide immensely helpful feedback on my doctorate, which have been instrumental in my finishing this enterprise. For the successful completion of this project, I could not have had a better Maestro: I am eternally grateful to Professor Andrea Biondi for guiding me along the 'diritta via' with endless knowledge, wisdom and charisma.

Looking back over the years, I realise that this undertaking has flourished as a result of the interminable assistance of the talented people that I have had the good fortune to meet. Special thanks are due to Professor Piet Eeckhout for his relentless enthusiasm and dependable advice. I would like to show my greatest appreciation to Dr Veerle Heyvaert for having faith in my work when it was still in its early stages. I am very grateful to Angus Johnston, who has impressed me as extensively for his academic accomplishments as for his limitless magnanimity. I further need to convey thanks to Mike Meehan and Shirley Whitfield for their profoundly moving trust and confidence. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Dr Alina Tryfonidou for her sincere friendship as a wonderful colleague.

This research would not have materialised without the intellectual curiosity imparted to me while taking my first steps in the study of law. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Professor John Bell for his unconditional benevolence when deciding to embark on my postgraduate

endeavours. I am very grateful to Professor Andrej Savin for introducing me to the intricacies of EU law. I remain forever indebted to Dr John Allison and Professor Richard Fentiman for an academic interview at Queens' College that has determined my professional life: I thank them fondly for all their support during the years spent in Cambridge.

Finally, I must extend my gratitude to the superb Edward Elgar team for their impeccable efficiency, patience and opportunity to publish my literary composition. I hope that those brave enough to choose to venture into reading the pages that follow find the journey through the meanders of this elaborate and often unpredictable legal field as fascinating as I did.

None of the friends and colleagues mentioned throughout bear any responsibility for the views expressed in this book, which are entirely my own.

