ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book rests on more than 20 years of experience as agents of the Commission in around 700 cases before EU Courts, roughly half of them relating to competition law. Very many people have contributed to our knowledge and understanding of the issues covered by this book during this period, far too many to be acknowledged by name, and we hope they will accept this public expression of appreciation.

Being very close to the debates in many of the cases covered by the book is a blessing and a curse. We are not naïve: surely our personal involvement in many of the cases which are examined in this book may have somewhat blurred our objectivity in certain passages. At the same time, we hope that it is this 'insider view' of competition litigation that will, in turn, add value to the book.

Some degree of objectivity has been hopefully infused by conversations with colleagues and practitioners too numerous to mention, which have stirred intellectual response. Ralf Sauer and Viktor Bottka have read drafts of many chapters and provided valuable comments. Our sincere gratitude to Koen Lenaerts, who generously accepted to write a Foreword, and who is an inspiring figure that both of us admire.

We owe particularly warm thanks to our families. Writing a book like this requires concentration and vast amounts of time. Many aspects of family life suffer as a result, but our families have been understanding and supportive.

The origin of this book is research carried out back in 2009 for a workshop at the European University Institute in Florence. We published separately two articles on the topics covered here. Soon the idea emerged of building on that research to write together a more comprehensive book, although it took a while to set things in motion and finalisation has been delayed due to our many professional duties. We thank the publisher for having been particularly patient with us.

The usual disclaimers apply. None of the people named above should be landed with responsibility for any of the views expressed here, but all have prevented numerous errors from appearing.