

# Acknowledgements

---

Although both the idea for the book and its actual structure have been elaborated in the last few years, this is the outcome of long-term experience and input that I have been able to acquire during my three lives at the University of Helsinki—first as Post-Doctoral member of the Centre of Excellence in the Foundations of European Law and Polity (CoE, led by Professor Kaarlo Tuori), then as Lecturer in European Studies at the Network for European Studies (NES), and finally as Academy of Finland Research Fellow. It is with gratitude that I remember all colleagues at the CoE and at the NES. I am also grateful to the European University Institute, where I have been a short-term Visiting Fellow, for providing the right sort of environment for the final, very delicate stages of writing. Acknowledgements are also given more specifically to a number of other people, who have contributed directly and indirectly to my work—either through their guidance and/or comments after reading bits and pieces or through encouragement and support. I wish to thank therefore Hans Lindahl, Kim Lane Scheppele, Neil Walker, Panu Minkkinen, Kaius Tuori, Guilherme Vasconcelos Vilaca and Eduardo Gill-Pedro. I would also like to thank all those with whom I have had the opportunity to exchange ideas in general, even if not related specifically with the content of this book. Finally, all my gratitude goes to my family, in particular my parents and my sister, for their support, and to Marta, simply for being there as my best supporter and my best opponent.

*Massimo Fichera*  
*Florence, 7 January 2018*

