Preface

The aim of this book is to provide a comprehensive assessment of avenues for judicial review of EU action by presenting an account of the vast and, some would argue, complex case-law of the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance, but also of the academic opinion which has accompanied their rulings over the years. While initially supportive, academic opinion has increasingly taken a more hostile attitude towards the approach pursued by the Community courts in this field, in particular in respect of the treatment of applications for judicial review by private parties. I have tried to provide a more balanced picture.

This book also endeavours to provide the reader with an understanding of the changes which the Lisbon Treaty might bring about. While the Irish ‘No’ vote prevented the planned entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 January 2009, at the time of publication of this book the ratification process has not been abandoned and it cannot be excluded that the Lisbon Treaty will enter into force, albeit at a later date.

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Please note that the book states the law as at 1 August 2008.