Series editor's preface

Public procurement in the EU is a matter not only of huge economic importance, but it is also an area in which there has been a massive growth of EU legislation and case-law: when Professor Bovis wrote a book on the subject ten years ago, it had five chapters; the current book has 17 chapters.

Legislation in this area was a priority in the context of the completion of the internal market by the end of 1992. However, while the EU may have the objective of an economic policy conducted in accordance with the principle of an open market economy with free competition, Professor Bovis points out that public and utilities procurement remains an area where the fundamental objective of market access requires a positive regulatory approach, given that it involves public markets.

We have therefore seen a growth in the range and detail of the relevant EU legislation, and the author initially gives an overview of how we have got to the fourth generation of legislation in this area, and of the principles of public procurement regulation. He then enters into detailed analysis of specific aspects of Public Sector Procurement and of Utilities Procurement, leading on to a consideration of the specific rules on Remedies and the more general issues of enforcement in this area of EU Law.

This book will be of interest not only to those working in the area of public and utilities procurement in the EU, but also to readers concerned with the EU's internal market, with the legislative competence of the EU, and with regulatory governance in the EU. I am most grateful to Professor Bovis for having made this material accessible to a wide range of readers.

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Exeter, February 2007