Preface

Following the signing of the Lisbon Treaty the authors took a strategic decision to ring-fence discussions of the relevant changes in the book. If you read the ‘boxed text’ throughout this book, you will realise that the changes affecting the field of criminal law contained in the Lisbon Treaty are particularly important. The value of this ring-fencing approach was demonstrated when on Friday 13 June 2008 the legislation necessary to ratify the Lisbon Treaty by Ireland was rejected in a referendum. At present, the EU and Member State leadership are unsure whether and (if so) how to salvage at least some of the reforms contained in the Lisbon Treaty. For now, and for the second time in recent years, the EU is forced, somewhat embarrassingly, into a ‘period of reflection’. Faced with the sometimes confused state of the texts in the current treaties and in the absence of Treaty reform, it is a legitimate question whether the European Court of Justice will step into the breach judicially to impose the coherence currently lacking. Whatever happens institutionally, with or without the Lisbon Treaty, the field of EU criminal law and justice will undoubtedly remain a dynamic policy area and thus a fascinating area to study.

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Maria would like to dedicate her stake in this book to the memory of her grandma, Kathleen Goddard.

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The law in this book is intended to be up to date as at December 2007. Comments about the book may be addressed to Maria Fletcher at M.Fletcher@law.gla.ac.uk and are always gratefully received.

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