Foreword

Sir Christopher Bellamy QC¹

This book arises out of the successful and well-attended conference which the United Kingdom Association of European Law, UKAEL, organized in the summer of 2006 to celebrate the 18 years of service given by one of our most distinguished members, and Vice President of this Association, Sir Francis Jacobs KCMG, as Advocate General at the European Court of Justice.

The UKAEL exists to foster the sound development of European Community law by organizing lectures, conferences and other occasions at which important issues can be discussed in depth between academics, judges, practitioners, administrators, students and all those interested in the subject matter. Our strong links with the Court of Justice and other European institutions, with our sister associations in the Member States through *Fédération Internationale de Droit Européen* (FIDE), and with the universities, enable this Association to bring together distinguished participants from many different backgrounds, as shown by the contents of this book.

The following chapters will highlight Francis's many achievements and discuss his brilliant and wide-ranging, and often courageous, contributions to many diverse fields of Community law. I of course associate myself with all those tributes and will, if I may, add just one remark. What is not perhaps generally known is Francis's work behind the scenes at the European Court to improve the functioning and effectiveness of that institution. Francis was there when the Court of First Instance was set up in 1989 and helped smooth some of the initial difficulties; Francis helped the evolution of the Court through no fewer than three treaties, Maastricht, Amsterdam and Nice. I would mention in particular his work on the ECJ/CFI *comité mixte* which worked up the Court's proposals for the Treaty of Nice; and more recently his work, at the invitation of President Skouris, as rapporteur and moving force behind some of the more recent procedural changes that the Court has introduced. Francis's contribution to the way in which the Court has evolved to meet the challenge of its expanding caseload is in my humble view one of his major achievements.

¹ President, UKAEL; former judge of the Court of First Instance and former President of the Competition Appeals Tribunal.

I trust that the reader will enjoy and profit from the discussion in this book of some of the themes that emerge from the opinions given by an outstanding Advocate General between 1988 and 2006.