Acknowledgements

When writing the last lines of my book and remembering all of those nice moments in Utrecht, the list of people I want to thank seems endless, yet there are some who deserve my sincere gratitude.

I would like to thank certain people who supported me during my work on this book. First and foremost, this work could not have been accomplished without the indispensable assistance of my mentor Gerrit De Geest, who simply did an excellent job. I would like to thank you, Gerrit, for everything you have done for me, for all your brilliant comments, marvelous insights, ideas and suggestions, for all the priceless discussions, for opening those new horizons of law and economics, and for all the precious moments with your family in St. Louis.

My gratitude also goes out to the members of the reading committee – Johan den Hertog, Willem Grosheide, Jacques Siegers, Brigitte Unger and Katarina Zajc – for their useful comments and suggestions. Special thanks also to my good friends and paraninfo Tjaša Pišljar and David Halter, who stood behind me and offered support in the most crucial moments.

I am further indebted to my colleagues from the Utrecht School of Economics Utrecht University, especially Clemens Kool, Tineke Dupont, Andrea Naylor, Ellie Renes, Denise van Deursen and Cisca van Wonderen for their daily assistance, and to Claire Economidou for her fantastic help with mathematics. Furthermore, I would like to thank Tom Zvart, Sacha Prechal, Chiseche Mibenge, Tamara Takacs, Ton van de Brink, Phillip Langbroek, Anna Gelbrandt and other colleagues from the Utrecht University Faculty of Law for all their support. I am indebted to my fellow Chair members Ann-Sophie Vandenberghe, Johan den Hertog, Ilan Yarif and Nick van der Beek for their continual encouragement, endless discussions, and helpful suggestions.

I also wish to thank to the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in London, the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, the Faculty of Law Ghent University and to the Rotterdam Institute of Law and Economics Erasmus University Rotterdam for enabling my research, for providing me with all of their facilities and for hosting and making me feel at home.

In addition, much of my sustained fascination for comparative law came from three outstanding scholars, Professors and mentors who offered inspiration and encouragement on my journey. With all of my heart I pay respect
to Sir Basil Markesinis, Ewoud Hondius and Ole Lando, whose lectures I was privileged to attend, for sharing their precious wisdom and truths, for all the inspiring discussions, helpful comments and advice, and above all for being true mentors.

Among my friends who offered precious suggestions and comments I am indebted to Scott Baker, Roger van den Bergh, James Bowers, Christoph Busch, Filomena Chirico, Eric van Damme, Gerhard Dannemann, Christoph van der Elst, Michael Faure, Fernando Gomez, Martijn Hesselink, Patrick Leyens, Christoph Jeloschek, Angus Johnston, Pierre Larouche, Giuseppe Dari Mattiacci, Lucy McGough, Michael Millo, Antonio Nicita, Anthony Ogos, Francesco Parisi, Michael Peil, Hans-Bernd Schäfer, Hans Schulte-Nölke, Pietro Trimarchi, Thomas Ulen, Wicher Schreuders and Wouter Wills. I also owe special thanks to Sally-Ann Attale, my editor from University of Cork for her marvelous grammar and spelling checking, as well as for many insightful comments. My sincere gratitude goes also to Goran Ćurčić for his exceptional interior forming of this book.

I am equally grateful to fellow colleagues from the Faculty of Economics University of Ljubljana who believed in me and have gave me an opportunity to join their renowned faculty, especially to Dušan Mramar, Aljoša Valentinčič, Andreja Cirman, Danijela Voljč, Tea Petrin, Patricia Kotnik, Banu Durukan, Jaka Cepec, Matej Marinč, Igor Lončarski, Aleksandar Kešeljevič, Rebeka Koncilja, Irena Ograjenšek, Janez Prašnikar, Saša Šobota, Nataša Mulec, Maks Tajnikar and Tadeja Žabkar.

Moreover, I am also grateful to those who made my stay in Utrecht a unique, unforgettable experience. I would like to thank to those with whom I shared so many precious moments of fun and joy. First, there is the ‘Gastronomical Society of Alexander Numankade 1.’ David, Maki, Pieter, Rocio, Dani, Phill and Sandra – I will never forget the first year of my stay in Utrecht, when we shared a house at A. Numankade. All the jokes, evenings and adventures actually convinced me to come back to Utrecht for my PhD. The team of A. Numankade, thank you very, very much again. My first year in Utrecht would be something completely different without my classmates from our law and economics master class. I would like to thank Yermek, Bayu, Indra, Chang, Maimuna, Ana Maria, Ilman, Roderick, Nova, Adil, Nadine, Liya, Xiufeng Peng for being such amazing friends. Especially, I would like to thank Liya for her support and encouragement during her visits in Slovenia, to Nadine for organizing all of those trips and to my dearest friend Xiufeng Peng from The National People’s Congress of China for endless discussions, tea and wisdoms. I would also like to thank the ‘Grote Trekdreef team’ – Tariq, Igor, Lina, Dana, Aslan, Marie Lou, Ioannis, Dibit, Michael the Chief, Shamiso, Adane, Chase, Demiseo, Boghdana, Otta, Liesbeth, Gentian, the Kiwis Arnaud and Aaron, Ramona, Asya, Dirk, Natasha, Eme, Myriel and many, many others. I will also never forget July, Imran, Koone, Anne-Marie and Marcelo, from the ‘Trompstraat
team’ and our national dinners, drinks and small talks on our balcony. My dear Denise, I thank you too for all the dinners, patience, fun and joy. Equally I am grateful to Alenka, Minu, Simon, Tjaša, Kristina and Martina for the ‘Slovenian Embassy’ in Utrecht. However, there are also my dearest friends at home in Slovenia whom I would like to thank for their support and encouragement – Vasilij, Bošijak, Samo, Nataša, Tinca, Dušan, Goga, Ines, Saša, Ana, Barbara, Nina, Meti, Martina, Ana, Jaka, Patricia, Nataša, Stojan and all the others, thank you too.

Finally, I would like to thank my Mum, Dad and my grandparents for their love, support and care. Without their constant encouragement and effort this work could simply not have been possible. It is to them that I dedicate this book. Let me finish in my mother tongue, draga mami, ati, oma in dedi, iz vsega srca najlepša hvala vam še enkrat za vse. Vam gre vsa zahvala in vam zato posvečam to knjigo.

Mitja Kovač, at the Oudegracht in Utrecht (The Netherlands)
September 2010