

Preface

This book is the follow-up of a conference held on 23 and 24 October 2009 at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. The conference aimed to commemorate two of our former colleagues who died in August and October 2008: Brian Bercusson, Professor at King's College (London) and Yota Kravaritou, Professor at the University of Thessaloniki (Greece). Both were professors at the EUI. Both were strong supporters of European social construction and workers' rights in Europe.

They had an intellectual influence throughout their professional life: Brian Bercusson mainly in Britain and Yota Kravaritou in Greece. This explains why in places as different as London, Brussels and Thessaloniki, their colleagues wish to dedicate their conferences or collected volumes to them.

In Florence we wanted to gather those who were students and/or friends, those who were, during the research training, under the influence of their ideas and commitments, mainly at the European University Institute. Our intention here was to honour not only their role in European intellectual thought, but also their role as professors.

This book shows that thanks to the energy propelled by the development of Social Europe, here in Florence, within and around the European University Institute, there has emerged an intellectual thought which now shines bright in the academic world.

We thank all those who participated in the conference and contributed to this volume. Without them the tribute to Brian Bercusson and Yota Kravaritou could not have been paid.

We also thank the President of the EUI, Yves Meny, as well as the Department of Law and the Academy of European Law whose immense support made the publication of this book possible.

We all wish to pay tribute to these two colleagues of ours.