

Acknowledgements

The current EU mood is gloomy; I wish I was misreading it, but I don't think I am. This saddens me because I am a true European, by any measure you care to choose. It gives me no satisfaction to conclude that the EU is in deep crisis. A Europe without borders was the dream for many young people for decades and for me, personally, the EU made this dream a reality. This is the only Europe I had ever known, until recently. I hold a French passport but I am a European at heart. I grew up in Strasbourg, a city which lies at the heart of the EU, so I regularly crossed the border with Germany. Half of my family lives in Italy; I have studied for more than half a decade in Ireland; and I now work at a British university. Whatever criticism of the EU and of its institutions is done in this volume, is done as a friend.

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