Preface

The aim of this *Research Handbook* is to set out the key debates concerning European Union (EU) tort law with contributions from leading authors in this field representing a variety of different European jurisdictions. Its goal is to offer an authoritative reference point for academics, students and practitioners studying or working in this field, but which is also accessible for those approaching the subject for the first time. European Union tort law is a particularly interesting topic owing to its dynamism and multidimensional character. This *Research Handbook* will address questions ranging from the conceptual (what do we mean by EU tort law?) to matters arising at EU level (non-contractual liability of the EU) and at national level (implementation of Directives, response of the national courts to new forms of EU tort law, state liability for breach of EU law). It will also look to the future – is the harmonisation of tort law across the EU a possibility (and if so, on what basis)? Can we identify the development of a ‘European’ culture of tort law which indicates that EU member states are moving towards a common conceptual understanding of the goals and purpose of tort law?

The 17 chapters provide a range of perspectives from common law, mixed and civil law legal traditions, focusing on areas of current research, but also proposing a research agenda for the future. The text therefore fits well within the mission statement of Edward Elgar Publishing to provide: ‘Original, specially commissioned content; a good mix of senior and emerging scholars; a lively debate between chapters and an aspiration to pave the way for future research.’ All contributors are experts in their field and provide learned and up-to-date analysis of the influence of EU tort law in their particular area of expertise. I have been very fortunate in my contributors both in their willingness to provide their chapters on time (always a relief to an editor!), but also due to the quality and content of each chapter, which readers will find enlightening, thought-provoking and even, at times, provocative. Many thanks therefore go to my contributors, but also to Ben Booth and Laura Mann at Edward Elgar for their support and advice, and to my family for their patience and encouragement. Together, these 17 chapters provide an insight into EU tort law today, but also provide an indication of its future. While editing this volume in a country where the prospect of Brexit

looms large, it is heartening indeed to see that there exists a framework of EU tort law from which lessons may be learnt, even if, sadly, not every European state chooses to participate directly.

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