

Foreword

Europeanization of enforcement has entered a new phase. It is no longer about coordination between national agencies only. New models of enforcement in a EU context are emerging and new EU enforcement agencies are being established. A process of centralization is evolving in many EU policy areas: from food and aviation safety to financial markets, pharmaceuticals and fisheries. As markets become more complex and problems do not stop at national frontiers, regulation and its enforcement must become cross-border oriented and coordinated in an effective way.

As regulation in Europe has been developing sector-by-sector – with different actors, history and context – different constructions and solutions are chosen to arrive at a division of powers between the EU and national levels. The result is a complex landscape with different models and constructions, where the enforcement powers at the EU and national levels have become increasingly shared. There is no one-size-fits-all model. New questions on the division of (enforcement) powers, political and judicial accountability do arise because of these complex systems. The cooperation between the EU and national institutions must be reset in order to meet the market challenges of today.

Law Enforcement by EU Authorities is the first book to discuss, as a whole, all the EU authorities that enjoy direct enforcement powers vis-à-vis private actors. It covers all the relevant EU and appropriate national actors and sectors from the perspective of accountability in a situation of shared enforcement of EU law. What are the necessary ingredients to ensure that in this new era political and judicial accountability can also be sufficiently ensured? The aim of this volume is to analyse whether and how the shift of direct enforcement powers to the EU level has been accompanied by an accountability system suited to address the needs of a shared legal order. The book identifies a number of challenges that need to be addressed to ensure our democratic values and the rule of law.

RENFORCE, the Utrecht Centre for Regulation and Enforcement in Europe, of the Faculty of Law, Economics and Governance, brings together academics and practitioners to investigate the relationship between regulation and enforcement in the interplay of national and EU government. This book illustrates this nicely, i.e., how academic expertise

can be bound together bundled with the insights from practice and how ideas can be shared among sectors. It is hoped that this collaborative research of 30 international scholars and practitioners will inspire EU and national policy makers and civil servants around Europe to address challenges in the emerging yet rapidly proliferating system of shared enforcement to make the system work effectively.

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