Law enforcement by EU authorities is a new development in the field of EU law and governance. This development and its implications for accountability have not been investigated before, at least not from the comprehensive perspective of all the existing EU authorities, their relevant national counterparts and the yet non-existent but much-debated European Public Prosecutor’s Office. This edited collection is a remarkable result of the effort of many, who are to be acknowledged here.

First, it is the Utrecht Centre for Regulation and Enforcement in European (RENFORCE). This is a unique centre, which unites scholars and practitioners from different fields of law and disciplines. It creates a platform for fruitful cooperation resulting in such cross-sectoral studies as this one. Thanks to the financial support of RENFORCE, we were able to generate the data in relation to all EU policy areas and actors to find out how many EU entities have already received direct enforcement tasks, to team up with many outstanding scholars and practitioners within and outside the Netherlands to start up and further this project (meetings in February and September of 2016 in Utrecht) and finalize this book. For research and administrative support, we thank the data collectors Elmar Schmidt and Marloes van Rijsbergen, Laurens van Kreij, Tobias Nyborg and Tom Binder. For the language check, we are grateful to the Wiarda Institute.

It goes without saying that investigation of all the relevant EU entities and their national counterparts and the analysis of the pertinent cross-cutting issues of accountability would not be possible without all the work and commitment of this book’s contributors. Thank you for that! We are also grateful to our Dean, Prof. Annetje Ottow, for her support of and kind words about this book.

Last but not least, we would like to acknowledge the support for investigating the proliferation of EU enforcement authorities from the Dutch Council for Scientific Research via the two individual and multi-annual research grants awarded to the editors under the highly competitive Innovational Research Incentives Scheme (veni and vidi grants).

Miroslava Scholten and Michiel Luchtman

xii