

Preface

The year 2018 marks exactly 25 years since the Treaty of Maastricht came into effect and the European Union came into being. The Maastricht Treaty constituted a landmark in that it created the first formalised legal provisions on European citizenship. The topic had been on the agenda since the 1970s, but it was not until 1993 that citizenship finally became an official policy domain of the European Union. Since then, the scope and importance of European citizenship have expanded gradually, even though it always remained a controversial subject because of the danger of infringement on existing regulations on national citizenship and feelings of national autonomy. Such feelings have been demonstrated by recent manifestations of growing Euroscepticism all over Europe. The 25-year celebration of 'Maastricht' is an ideal occasion to study the development of European citizenship throughout the years, as well as its benefits and deficiencies.

The current volume is a product of close cooperation between the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Arts and the Documentation Centre Dutch Political Parties of the University of Groningen, Netherlands. The inter-faculty research group 'Politieke wilsvoiming' (Political decision-making), instigated by Professor Douwe Jan Elzinga, stood at the basis of both the citizenship project and this publication. This volume aims to offer an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to the development of European citizenship with contributions from lawyers (both academics and practitioners), political scientists and historians, all with special expertise in the research area under consideration. Thus far, the topic has been dominated by single-disciplinary studies and publications, which has necessarily limited the analytical scope of the research undertaken.

We wish to express our gratitude to Douwe Jan Elzinga, Professor Emeritus of Constitutional Law since 2015, for his input as spiritual father of the project. We also would like to thank Yvonne de Geus and Evelien van Ingen of the Documentation Centre Dutch Political Parties, who have done a marvellous job in formatting, editing and styling the text of the book. A final word of acknowledgement is extended to Alex

Pettifer and Rachel Downie of Edward Elgar Publishing, for the pleasant and fruitful collaboration in the process of making this book.

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Editors
Groningen, March 2018