

# Acknowledgements

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This edited volume is a collaborative venture of the editors and the contributors. It all started while examining the role of the EU in international standardization. During the years 2015–18, we have discussed standardization with prominent legal scholars working on standardization as well as with experts in different economic fields. An initial conceptual discussion about international standardization and its contribution to regulatory and policy diffusion took place in Florence in June 2016. Already then, we realized that the main challenge was what to single out as a ‘standard’. Back in Helsinki that autumn, we continued exchanging ideas on whether and how the EU participates in international standardsetting. As time went by, the problems in identifying what constitutes a ‘standard’ became more acute. From the discussions with contributors and experts in the field, we learned that a standard, understood as a rule or practice within a specialized community, could take manifold shapes, such as technical standards, standard contract terms or codes of conduct. This is how we decided to broadly focus on standards, contracts and codes.

We would like to truly thank and acknowledge here our debt to all the book’s contributors, not only for the work they put into preparing and revising their contributions, but also for their commitment to the whole project. The examination of the role of the EU in the manifold manifestations of private regulation requires empirics and, therefore, illustrating the dynamics behind each sector has been a timeconsuming and challenging process. We especially thank all those who have made important contributions to the discussions. We received significant insights from Antonina Bakardjieva, Panos Delimatsis, Peter Drahos, Ellen Eftestøl-Wilhelmsson, Philipp Genschel, Stefan Grundmann, Emilia Korkea-Aho, Barend van Leeuwen, Pia Letto-Vanamo, Juan Marchetti, Anna Marhold, Suvi Sankari, Harm Schepel, Alexander Somek and Lee Tuthill.

The book’s publication was made possible by funding from the Academy of Finland under the Finland Distinguished Professor programme (FiDiPro) [283002] for the project *The External Dimension of European Private Law*. In particular, we are extremely grateful to Pia Letto-Vanamo for making possible the organization of the events and for strongly supporting this book publication. Meetings in Florence to exchange ideas and complete the book were also possible thanks to the generosity of the EUI allowing the use of the premises. We would like to thank Claudia de Concini and Daniel Wyatt for their valuable

support with administrative arrangements. We also thank Christopher Goddard for his expeditious work in editing the language of the entire manuscript.

Not least, we must thank the anonymous referees for their eye-opening comments. We are also grateful to Ben Booth, Amber Watts and Saffron Watts for their helpful guidance throughout the publication process. We feel honored that Fabrizio Cafaggi accepted our proposal to include this volume in the Edward Elgar Private Regulation series.

Florence and Madrid, July 2019

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