PREFACE

EU climate law is one of the most dynamic and fastest growing areas of EU law. The Groningen Centre of Energy Law and Sustainability (GCELS) has therefore taken the initiative to prepare a second, revised edition of its textbook on *Essential EU Climate Law*. All authors of this book are members or fellows of GCELS at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

The purpose of our book is to provide an introduction to EU climate mitigation law and to review some of the main challenges affecting climate regulation in the European context. Special attention is paid to the energy sector, which is responsible for the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU. After presenting a definition of climate law, we discuss the main climate targets and instruments of the EU, such as emissions trading, the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency mechanisms. We also clarify their legal impact on energy network regulation, multi-level governance and human rights. The latter issues are important for understanding the broader picture of EU climate mitigation law.

The book is organised according to a specific format. Each chapter not only addresses the relevant directives and regulations, but also analyses their implementation and how it affects current policy and academic debate. This combination is what makes our introduction a comprehensive one, namely by describing, analysing and reviewing the main features and issues of EU climate mitigation law.

Content-wise, therefore, our book is unique: until this publication, an up-to-date and easily accessible volume presenting and critically reflecting upon EU climate mitigation law was missing. Process-wise, our book is unique too. Most of the chapters of the first edition have been actively reviewed by students of the LLM course on Climate Law at the University of Groningen. They provided valuable referee reports to us. The second edition was guided by a publisher survey among users of the first edition of the book, including lecturers and students across Europe. This led to various suggestions which helped us to improve the chapters. The text of the book was completely updated by covering all latest developments up to and including December 2020.

We hope that you will enjoy our exposition of the ‘essence’ of EU climate law.

Groningen, 15 January 2021

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