Given the controversies and difficulties which preceded the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty, it is easy to forget that the Treaty is a complex legal document in need of detailed analysis for its impact to be fully understood. Jean-Claude Piris, the Director-General of the Legal Service of the Council of the European Union (EU), provides such an analysis, looking at the historical and political contexts of the Treaty, its impact on the democratic framework of the EU and its provisions in relation to substantive law. Impartial legal analysis of the EU’s functions, its powers and the treaties which govern it make this the seminal text on the most significant recent development in EU law.

Since 1988, Jean-Claude Piris has served as the Legal Counsel of the Council of the EU and Director-General of its Legal Service. He is an Honorary Counsellor of State of France, a former diplomat at the UN and the former Director of Legal Affairs of the OECD. He was the Legal Advisor of the successive Intergovernmental Conferences which negotiated and adopted the treaties of Maastricht in 1992, Amsterdam in 1997 and Nice in 2001, the Constitutional Treaty signed in Rome in 2004 and, finally, the Lisbon Treaty in 2007.
This series aims to produce original works which contain a critical analysis of the state of the law in particular areas of European law and set out different perspectives and suggestions for its future development. It also aims to encourage a range of work on law, legal institutions and legal phenomena in Europe, including 'law in context' approaches. The titles in the series will be of interest to academics; policymakers; policy formers who are interested in European legal, commercial and political affairs; practising lawyers including the judiciary; and advanced law students and researchers.

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To Margrét Thoroddsdottir-Piris and Anne-Sophie Sunna Piris, my wife and daughter, for their constant support and patience during the time of writing this book.
I do absolutely believe in the European project.
I think it is the most noble political ideal
in European history in a thousand years."
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of boxes</td>
<td>xii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreword by Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany</td>
<td>xiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>xvi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of cases</td>
<td>xvii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of abbreviations</td>
<td>xxi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I The origins and birth of the Lisbon Treaty</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 The process that led to the establishment of the European Union</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 From the Constitutional Treaty to the Lisbon Treaty</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 The difficult ratification of the Lisbon Treaty</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 The structure of the Lisbon Treaty</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II General provisions</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Values and objectives</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Delimitation and clarification of the EU competences</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Basic principles</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 The legal personality of the EU</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Variable geometry</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Legislative and non-legislative procedures and Acts</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Procedures for the revision of the Treaties</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Withdrawal of a Member State from the EU</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III Democracy</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 The European Parliament</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 The national parliaments</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 The citizens' initiative and other possibilities for citizens to influence decisions of the EU</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CONTENTS

17 The judgment of 30 June 2009 of the German Constitutional Court and the issue of the democratic legitimacy of the EU 141

IV Fundamental Rights 146
18 The origins of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights 146
19 The Charter of Fundamental Rights as referred to in the Lisbon Treaty 148
20 The Protocol on the application of the Charter to Poland and the United Kingdom 160
21 The accession of the EU to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 163

V Freedom, Security and Justice 167
22 A short history of Justice and Home Affairs in the EU 167
23 The abolition of the third pillar and the other changes made by the Lisbon Treaty 177
24 Variable geometry in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice 192

VI Institutions 204
25 The European Council 205
26 The Council 209
27 The Commission 225
28 The Court of Justice 230
29 Changes to other institutions and bodies 234
30 Relations between institutions and the interinstitutional balance 235

VII External affairs 238
31 External affairs before the Lisbon Treaty 238
32 The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy 243
33 The European External Action Service 249
34 The Common Foreign and Security Policy 256
35 Security and Defence 265
36 Other sectors of external affairs, including trade policy 279

VIII Financial, economic, social and other internal affairs 288
37 The EU budget 288
38 European monetary union and the euro zone 301
39 The internal market and free competition 307
40 Social policy 309
41 Services of general interest 313
CONTENTS

42 Agriculture, energy, health and other internal affairs 316

Conclusion: the Lisbon Treaty and beyond 324

Appendixes
1 The judgment of 30 June 2009 of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany on the Lisbon Treaty 341
2 The judgment of 26 November 2008 of the Czech Constitutional Court on the Lisbon Treaty 359
3 List of provisions on a simplified revision procedure and of passerelles 361
4 Existing legal bases switched to the ordinary legislative procedure (codecision) 365
5 New legal bases 369
6 List of Articles in the TEU and in the TFEU which enable the European Council to take decisions having legal effects 379
7 Existing legal bases switched from unanimity to qualified majority voting 383
8 Pre-existing legal bases where unanimity, common accord or consensus continues to apply 386

References 398
Index 404
BOXES

1 The successive enlargements of the EU 3
2 Protocol on the institutions with the prospect of enlargement of the European Union (Amsterdam 1997) 10
3 The four questions put by the Declaration on the Future of the Union (Nice 2000) 11
4 Declaration on the Future of the European Union (Laeken, December 2001) 12
5 Turnout for the elections to the European Parliament 14
6 Declaration on the ratification of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, European Council, 15–16 June 2005 24
7 European Council, 15–16 June 2006, Presidency Conclusions 25
8 Berlin Declaration, 25 March 2007 29
9 European Council, 19–20 June 2008, Presidency Conclusions 52
10 European Council, 11–12 December 2008, Presidency Conclusions 54
11 Statement of the Concerns of the Irish People on the Lisbon Treaty as set out by the Taoiseach, 11–12 December 2008 55
12 European Council, 18–19 June 2009, Presidency Conclusions 57
13 Decision of the Heads of State or Government of the 27 Member States of the EU, meeting within the European Council, on the concerns of the Irish people on the Lisbon Treaty, 18–19 June 2009 58
14 European Council, 29–30 October 2009, Presidency Conclusions 62
15 The Union’s values (Article 2 TEU) 71
16 The objectives of the EU (Article 3 TEU) 72
17 The division of competences between the EU and its Member States 75
18 Declaration no. 17 concerning primacy 81
19 The ‘comitology’ system before the Lisbon Treaty 101
20 The Declaration on the Future of the European Union (Laeken, December 2001) 113
21 Article 10 TEU 114
22 Article 12 TEU 126
23 Europol and Eurojust 182
24 The ‘brake–accelerator’ mechanism 185
25 The ‘accelerator’ mechanism 187

xii
26 The rotation of Council Presidencies from 2007 to 2020 210
27 Article 16 TEU (definition of QMV within the Council) and Article 235(1), 2nd subparagraph, TFEU (definition of QMV within the European Council) 214
28 Evolution of the weight of Council members’ votes since 1957 218
29 The ‘Ioannina Decision’ of 1994 223
30 The 2009 ‘Ioannina-bis’ mechanism 224
31 ESDP operations and missions of the EU (2003–9) 269
32 Payment appropriations as a percentage of GNI, 2000–13 290
33 The UK rebate 290
34 EU expenditure 2007–13 291
36 A particular example of the extensive use by the European Parliament of its budgetary powers 300
37 Protocol no. 27 on the internal market and competition 308
38 Protocol no. 26 on services of general interest 315
39 Article 194(1) TFEU on energy 319


Angela Merkel
Bundeskanzlerin
Bundesrepublik Deutschland
The Lisbon Treaty opened a new chapter in European history. The celebrations on 25 March 2007 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome were a significant driver of this new Treaty, for it was on this occasion that the European heads of state or government, in signing the Berlin Declaration, committed themselves not only to a set of shared values, tasks and structures within the European Union but also to placing the European Union on a renewed common basis.

Converting this commitment into a mandate for an Intergovernmental Conference was by no means easy. The fact that this goal was indeed accomplished at the European Council meeting held on 21–23 June 2007 – and still within the period of the German EU Council Presidency – was thanks in no small part to Jean-Claude Piris in his role as Director-General of the Council Legal Service. It was worth the effort. For the Lisbon Treaty makes the European Union stronger and more independent in foreign policy but internally more democratic, which means it is better equipped to face the new challenges of an increasingly globalised world.

With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009, a complex cycle of reform that had in fact begun with the negotiations for the Maastricht Treaty was successfully completed. This book traces the outline of the historical process and in so doing clearly elucidates the roots of the core provisions and also the relationships between them. At the same time the work illuminates the most significant judgments relating to the Lisbon Treaty – for instance the judgment by the German Federal Constitutional Court. The book achieves in effect a comprehensive assessment of existing primary law in the European Union, written by an authoritative hand.

Angela Merkel
Chancellor
Federal Republic of Germany
(Berlin, November 2009)
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#### TABLE OF CASES

**Court of Justice of the European Union**


### Table of Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Judgment Date</th>
<th>Relevant ECtHR Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-285/98, Kreil</td>
<td>Judgment of 11 January 2000</td>
<td>348n. 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-107/97</td>
<td>Judgment of 18 March 2000, Rombi and Arkopharma</td>
<td>159n. 32, 164n. 38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50/00 P, Union de Pequeños agricultores</td>
<td>Judgment of 25 July 2002</td>
<td>159n. 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-11/00</td>
<td>Commission v. ECB (OLAF Regulation)</td>
<td>Judgment of 10 July 2003</td>
<td>235n. 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-105/03, Pupino</td>
<td>Judgment of 16 June 2005</td>
<td>92n. 33, 175–6n. 28, 200n. 73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-77/05 and 137/05, UK v. Council</td>
<td>Judgments of 18 December 2007</td>
<td>[2007] ECR I-11593 197n. 68, 199n. 72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-438/05, Viking Line</td>
<td>Judgment of 11 December 2007</td>
<td>ECR I-10779 158n. 28, 334</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other International Courts

- **European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and European Human Rights Commission**
  
  Decision of 13 May 1980 of the European Human Rights Commission, Case X v. UK, no. 8416/79, DR 19, 244 155n. 24
  
  Judgment of 7 July 1989 of the ECtHR, Case 1/1989/161/217, Soering v. United Kingdom 153n. 22
TABLE OF CASES

Judgment of 18 February 1999 of the ECHR, Case 24833/94, *Matthews v. UK* 166n. 41

**International Court of Justice**


**National Constitutional Courts**

**Czech Republic**


**France**


**Germany, Federal Republic of**

Judgment of 29 May 1974, *Solange I*, BVerfGE 37, 271 115n. 4, 144, 146, 164
Judgment of 22 October 1986, *Solange II*, BVerfGE 73, 339 147
Judgment of 7 June 2000, *Bananenmarkordnung*, BVerfGE 102, 147 147n. 5
TABLE OF CASES

Ireland
Judgment of 9 April 1987, Crotty v. Taoiseach, 1986 No. 12036P 51

Italy
Judgment of 27 December 1973, Frontini, no. 183/73, I, 1974, 314 147n. 6

Spain
Decision of 13 December 2004, Traité établissant une Constitution pour l’Europe, no. DTC 1/2004 81n. 18
ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAP</td>
<td>common agricultural policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFSP</td>
<td>Common Foreign and Security Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coreper</td>
<td>Committee of Permanent Representatives¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSAC</td>
<td>Conference of European Affairs Committee of national parliaments²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSI</td>
<td>Standing Committee on operational co-operation on internal security³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSDP</td>
<td>Common Security and Defence Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cst</td>
<td>Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAEC</td>
<td>European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Community/Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECB</td>
<td>European Central Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECHR</td>
<td>European Court of Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECJ</td>
<td>European Court of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECSC</td>
<td>European Coal and Steel Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEAS</td>
<td>European External Action Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEC</td>
<td>European Economic Community (‘EC’ after the 1992 Maastricht Treaty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIB</td>
<td>European Investment Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMU</td>
<td>Economic and Monetary Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP</td>
<td>European Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESDP</td>
<td>European Security and Defence Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euratom</td>
<td>European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurojust</td>
<td>European Union’s Judicial Co-operation Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europol</td>
<td>European Police Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Financial Perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSJ</td>
<td>Freedom, Security and Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYROM</td>
<td>Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNI</td>
<td>Gross National Income</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ French acronym for ‘Comité des Représentants Permanents’.
² French acronym for ‘Conférence des Organes Spécialisés dans les Affaires Communautaires et européennes des parlements de l’Union européenne’.
³ French acronym for ‘Comité permanent de coopération opérationnelle en matière de Sécurité Intérieure’.
ABBREVIATIONS

HR  High Representative (of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy) (after the Lisbon Treaty)
HSG  heads of state or government
IGC  Intergovernmental Conference
IIA  Interinstitutional Agreement
JHA  Justice and Home Affairs
MEP  member of the European Parliament
MFF  Multiannual Financial Framework
NATO  North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OECD  Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OLAF  European Anti-Fraud Office4
QMV  qualified majority voting
SG/HR  Secretary General/High Representative for CFSP (before the Lisbon Treaty)
SIS  Schengen Information System
TEC  Treaty establishing the European Community
TEU  Treaty on European Union (‘former TEU’: refers to the Treaty on European Union in force before 1 December 2009)
TFEU  Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
VIS  Visa Information System
WEU  Western European Union

4 French acronym for ‘Office européen de Lutte Anti-Fraude’.