

Preface

It is with abundant pleasure that I introduce the volume before you, *Constitutional Issues of EU External Relations Law*, edited by my colleagues Professor Eleftheria Neframi and Dr Mauro Gatti.

As Dean of the Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance (FDEF), it is always a source of great satisfaction to behold the end product of original research conducted at the University of Luxembourg. The EUGIA project (the European Union as Global International Actor and the Question of Competence), coordinated by Professor Neframi and from which the majority of the contributions in this volume have emerged, provides a sparkling example of our Faculty's dynamic, international scientific orientation.

The quality of the chapters herein, hinted at by the presence of eminent academics as well as esteemed practitioners in the field of EU external action, speaks for itself. The volume is sure to prove a rich addition to the ongoing debates in said field and beyond, at a time when the very identity of the European Union – both internally and in the wider world – remains in a state of flux.

Indeed, the theme of the EU's identity is present throughout this volume. Much has changed in the Union, and around the Union, since the seminal *ERTA* case: the Union's external relations now address a number of issues, ranging from trade to anti-terrorism policy and international cooperation in criminal matters. The enlargement of the EU's sphere of action raises novel issues in terms of the core principles on which the Union is founded, including the attribution of competences and respect for European values. By focusing on recent developments in EU external relations, the contributions to this volume offer precious insight into the main constitutional challenges faced by the Union.

Lastly, as Dean of the FDEF I wish to express my pride that it is Luxembourg which has provided the forum for this important contribution to the Union's external action debate, whilst extending my warmest congratulations to my dear colleagues Professor Neframi and Dr Gatti for their success in bringing together the voices which fill the pages that follow.

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