

**DREPTUL UNIUNII EUROPENE/THE LAW OF THE EUROPEAN
UNION
- BOOK REVIEW -**

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The law of the European Union is a complex matter and is very refreshing to see it revealed in a very organised manner. The first part of the book has a historical nature. The authors start with the roots of European civilisation in ancient Greece and Rome, as well as the first „Europe as a whole” ideas which occurred during the Middle Ages. It is fascinating to follow the information which reveals the desire for European cooperation during centuries and the reasons which kept it alive. The historical part also includes a view upon the pan-European idea in the Romanian conscience.

The second chapter of the first section deals with the international organisations, as a base to the United Europe, including the European Council. The authors point out the participation of the European countries in the international organisations and the role of each such organisation. It is a preparation for a common effort in different areas crucial for their development, such as economy and defence. The European organisations are then presented, with their structure and purpose. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (O.S.C.E.) is then presented as “a key element of the European security architecture”. The European Free Trade Association is also presented as a “club” of trade preferences, without a common economic policy.

The creation of European communities is the subject of chapter three. The desire for “ending the conflictual policies and build a common space based on a single market” is presented as a starting point. The ideas of Jean Monnet, for further developing the communities into political structures, are very well placed here, as well as the turmoil of ideas, proposals and rejections that shaped the European Community and then the European Union.

The European Treaties, as well as the project for a European Constitution are commented in the fourth chapter. The European Treaties are briefly presented with emphasis on the main steps taken by each treaty towards a more perfect union that will satisfy economic needs as well as the need for the respect of human rights of the European citizens. The main ideas are presented in an exceptional organisation,

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emphasizing the progress obtained with each new treaty and explaining the reasons they were adopted.

Chapter five presents the extension of the community space, presenting the main points in the course of each stage of extension.

The second part of the book is dedicated to the “institutional landscape” of the European Union. In the same organised and explicit manner, the authors draw the map of the European institutions and the relations between them. The chapter also refers to the organisms and agencies of the European Union, briefly but comprehensively explaining their role.

The second chapter of the second section is dedicated to the legal order of the European Union. In the introduction, the authors point out that “the law of the European Union may be seen as a law of its own, integrated in the legal system of the member states, where the main actors are not only the member states, but their nationals as well”. The authors also explain that the law of the European Union is a supranational law which, according to well established principles, has priority against national laws in any circumstances”. These ideas are followed throughout the chapter which presents the legal documents of the European Union and their force in the national law of the member states. The chapter ends with the section regarding the principles of the European Law, as they were shaped by the Court of Justice of the European Union, that should be applied in the interpretation of all European legal norms.

The last chapter, chapter four of the second section, is dedicated to the frame of the human rights in the European law. As the first author, Irina Moroianu Zlătescu, is a master author in the field of human rights, the chapter presents a clear view on the particularities of the protection of human rights inside the European Union according to the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and the freedoms for movement of goods, capital, services and persons. As a former Member of the Management Board of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union (FRA) (2013–2018), professor Irina Moroianu Zlătescu explains the history and role of the Agency, in providing assistance to all the organs, organisms and agencies of the European Union in interpreting and applying the European law according to their competences.

The book ends with a chapter (chapter five of the second section) dedicated to the external and security relations of the European Union and the challenges brought by the last years’ events.

A book that looks in all aspects regarding the European Union, explained considering the history of the idea of a united Europe and the nowadays purpose of the European Union as a complex construction, “Dreptul uniunii europene”/“The Law of the European Union” authored by Irina Moroianu Zlătescu and Elena Marinică is very useful for law professionals, presenting a clear map of the architecture of the European Union, its goals and its tools. The book emphasises that this architecture is based on the respect of human rights, shaped at a new level inside the Union.