

INSTITUȚIILE UNIUNII EUROPENE/ THE INSTITUTIONS OF EUROPEAN UNION

- Book review -

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Universul academic & Editura Universitară, Bucharest, 2020
276 pages

The book is a sequel of the author's interest in the structure and functioning of the European Union, following "The Law of the European Union" published in 2017. It covers central and decentralised structures, in an attempt to present a complete view upon the EU institutions. As the authors emphasize, the book is "the result of in-depth research of the evolution of the institutions of the European Union" presenting a synthesis of "the unique institutional frame of the EU".

A first chapter is dedicated to general aspects regarding the European Union. It prepares the reader for a better understanding of the chapters dealing with different institutions. Like every chapter in the book, the first chapter is opened by a selection of legal texts from the TFEU which form the base of the author's research. Here, articles 1- 9 open the chapter. Apart from mentioning the first European Treaties, the authors explain the reasons behind the idea of a united Europe and the various visions on the subject. Also, the signification of the Treaties, starting with TFEU and up to the Treaty of Lisbon is emphasized. Principles and values of the European Union, as well as their legal sources are discussed, from a common market to the four principles of free movement. In a well-structured manner, the competences of the EU institutions are presented, distinguishing between exclusive competences, shared competences and supporting competences. In order to facilitate the comprehension of the division of competences, the principles that govern the functioning of EU are presented, as well as the mechanisms that prevent the slippage of member states from the principles that govern the functioning of the EU. The principles are presented in their evolution and necessity, leading to the concept of European citizenship, a concept that is explained in the frame of the rights and duties attached to it. A multitude of perspectives weave a clear image where all the institutions presented in the following chapters find their place and meaning.

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The institutions presented in the following chapters are: the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union (with legislative powers), the Council (institution with the highest political power of decision), the European Commission, The Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank, the Court of Auditors. Figures, tables, selection of legal texts grouped in cases and a very systematic but at the same time comprehensive approach contribute to a better understanding of the complexity of the institutions presented. A national perspective is also present, regarding a synthetic presentation of Romania's results in exercising the Presidency of the Council (page 119). The chapter regarding the Court of Justice of the European Union contains a valuable selection of references to the case-law which have shaped the rights and principles consecrated by the Treaties of EU.

The last chapter of the book is dedicated to the consultative organisms and agencies of the EU: the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Committee of the Regions, the European Investment Bank, decentralised organisms and agencies. Legal texts from the European Treaties, the structure and the competence are briefly, but clearly presented in each case together with a historic reasoning behind the creation of each organism or agency, contributing to the understanding of the need of each such component in the architecture of the institutions of the European institutions.

A brief but in-depth presentation, *Instituțiile Uniunii Europene/The Institutions of European Union* written by Irina Moroianu Zlătescu and Claudia Elena Marinică is a useful book not only for students from the Law or European Studies faculties, but for any person who must have information or simply wants to know about the need of different European Institutions and their role in the functioning of the European Union according to the values and principles established by the European Treaties.