

# International relations law of the European Union.

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# International Relations Law of the European Union

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## Main text

This book is published as part of the Longman European Law Series, which aims to extend the range of student accessible Community law textbooks. As such, this work serves this purpose in an exemplary fashion, dealing thoroughly and competently with the basics of Community external relations, extending the discussion beyond the normal range of books on the subject and offering an up to date and broader context view of the issues. Undoubtedly, the whole series will serve an important function in the expansion of teaching and student interests in E.C./E.U. law, but this book is particularly useful given the relative dearth of textbooks on the subject. The emerging increasing importance of legal analytical input into the external role of the E.C./E.U. is not debatable, and this is accompanied by a welcome and inevitable need to adopt an interdisciplinary focus. The extent to which knowledge of developments and jurisprudence in external relations impacts upon the understanding of "internal" matters cannot be underestimated.

The title, as is explained, has been deliberately chosen as opposed to "external relations", given the latter's commercial policy focus. Therefore, although the author acknowledges his debt to the most recent large work on the subject, this short volume is of merit in adopting an expansive position as to what may be considered as falling within the ambit of the legal analysis of the EC/EU's international role. Thus, both the second and third Pillars of the TEU as well as human rights and citizenship are allocated some space. This signifies the emergence of a more imaginative and comprehensive approach towards the legal examination of external relations.

In eleven clearly laid-out chapters, both the familiar and not so familiar topics in this area are dealt with. The most interesting of the early chapters are Chapters 3 to 6, which deal extensively with the issue of competence in external relations. There is good, clear discussion of the jurisprudence and an exposure of the difficulties in this area, as there also is of the problems with direct effect in Chapter 7. Chapter 10 adopts a more descriptive format but Chapters 8 and 9 usefully examine CFSP and JHA respectively. The coverage of CFSP in particular is good, with up-to-date discussion of developments and also analysis of potential IGC changes. The book ends with an "Appraisal and prospectus", which ought to inspire students to pose further questions and increase their appreciation of the broad impact of the E.C/E.U. as an international actor.

The book is carefully and thoroughly footnoted and includes a good, extensive bibliography. It more than adequately achieves its objective of clearly presenting the essence of the law relating to the E.C./E.U.'s international role. It goes beyond the traditional focus on the subject and, even within such a short space, renders a comprehensive and intelligent overview of the issues. It will be used by undergraduates seeking to expand their Community law knowledge and by postgraduates as an informed introduction to the subject. Although a short work, it may play some part in the general encouragement of more diverse and specialised discussion on aspects of E.C. law at undergraduate level.