

CONTENTS

Preface	7
1. EUROPEAN UNION LAW	9
1.1 The term European Union Law	9
1.2 The idea for European Integration	10
1.3 The Council of Europe	10
1.4 Establishing the European Communities	10
1.5 Generally about the European Union and the European Communities	11
1.6 Changes of primary law	12
1.6.1 The Single European Act	12
1.6.2 The Treaty on European Union	13
1.6.3 The Treaty of Amsterdam	14
1.6.4 The Treaty of Nice	14
1.6.5 The Accession Treaty	14
1.6.6 The Lisbon Treaty	15
2. MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION	18
2.1 Accession to the European Union	19
2.2 Withdrawal from the European Union	19
2.3 Sanction in EU law for member states – suspension of voting rights	20
2.4 Solidarity Clause	22
2.5 Enhanced cooperation	22
2.5.1 The idea of the enhanced cooperation	22
2.5.2 Legal regulation of the enhanced cooperation	22
2.5.3 The process for establishment of enhanced cooperation	24
3. COMPETENCES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION	26
3.1 The division of competences	27
3.1.1 Exclusive competences of the European Union	28
3.1.2 Shared competences of the European Union and the member states	28
3.1.3 Support, coordinate or supplement competences of the European Union	29
3.2 The flexibility clause – Article 352 TFEU	30
3.3 The principles of subsidiarity and proportionality	30
3.3.1 The principle of subsidiarity	30
3.3.2 Principle of proportionality	32
3.3.3 Report on application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality	32
3.4 Citizenship of the European Union	32

4. THE NATURE OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW AND ITS EFFECT.	34
4.1 EU Law – Independent Legal Order	34
4.2 Direct applicability	35
4.3 Direct effect	36
4.4 Indirect effect	39
4.5 Liability of a member state who failed to comply with EU law for damage caused to individual	41
4.6 Primacy of EU law over national law	44
5. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.	48
5.1 The European Parliament.	49
5.1.1 Organization of the European Parliament.	49
5.1.1.1 <i>President of the European Parliament</i>	49
5.1.1.2 <i>Political Groups</i>	50
5.1.1.3 <i>Parliamentary Committees</i>	50
5.1.1.4 <i>Parliamentary Delegations</i>	50
5.1.2 Powers of the European Parliament.	51
5.1.3 Political Parties at European level	51
5.1.4 Right of Petition and European ombudsman.	55
5.1.5 Relations with other EU institutions.	56
5.2 The European Council	56
5.2.1 The functions of the European Council	56
5.2.2 President of the European Council	57
5.3 The Council	58
5.3.1 Composition and competences of the Council	58
5.3.2 Presidency in the Council	58
5.3.3 Voting in the Council	59
5.3.4 Council configuration.	61
5.3.5 The Committee for Permanent Representatives (COREPER)	64
5.4 The European Commission.	65
5.4.1 Functions of the European Commission.	65
5.4.2 Composition of the European Commission.	66
5.4.3 Members of the European Commission	66
5.4.3.1 <i>Position and status of the Commissioners</i>	66
5.4.3.2 <i>Creation of the European Commission</i>	67
5.4.4 Departments of the European Commission.	67
5.4.5 The High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy	68
5.4.6 The European External Action Service	69
5.5 Court of Justice of the European Union	69
5.5.1 The role and function of the Court of Justice of the European Union	69
5.5.2 Composition of the Court of Justice of the European Union	70
5.5.2.1 <i>Composition of the Court of Justice</i>	70
5.5.2.2 <i>Composition of the General Court</i>	71

5.5.3	Criteria for appointment of the judges	71
5.5.4	Organization of the Court of Justice of the European Union	72
5.5.5	Jurisdiction of the Court of Justice and the General Court	73
5.5.5.1	<i>Jurisdiction of the Court of Justice</i>	73
5.5.5.2	<i>Jurisdiction of the General Court</i>	74
5.5.6	Specialised courts – the European Union Civil Service Tribunal	74
5.5.6.1	<i>Composition of the European Union Civil Service Tribunal</i>	75
5.5.6.2	<i>Jurisdiction of the European Union Civil Service Tribunal</i>	76
5.5.7	The importance of the case-law of EU courts.	76
5.5.7.1	<i>Interpretation of EU law</i>	76
5.5.7.2	<i>The importance of previous decisions</i>	77
5.5.8	Types of proceedings before the Court of Justice of the European Union	77
5.5.8.1	<i>Reference for preliminary ruling</i>	77
5.5.8.2	<i>Actions for failure to fulfil obligations</i>	79
5.5.8.3	<i>Failure to fulfil the judgment</i>	80
5.5.8.4	<i>Actions for annulment</i>	80
5.5.8.5	<i>Actions for failure to act</i>	83
5.5.8.6	<i>Other types of proceeding before the Court of Justice of the European Union</i>	84
5.6	European Central Bank	85
5.6.1	European Central Bank	85
5.6.2	European System of Central Banks (ESCB)	85
5.6.3	Eurosystem	85
5.6.4	Bodies of the European Central Bank	85
5.7	The Court of Auditors	86
5.7.1	The role and functions of the Court of Auditors	86
5.7.2	Composition of the Court of Auditors	87
5.8	Advisory Bodies of the European Union	87
5.8.1	The European Economic and Social Committee	87
5.8.1.1	<i>Composition of the EESC</i>	88
5.8.2	The Committee of the Regions	88
5.8.2.1	<i>Composition of the Committee of the Regions</i>	89
5.9	The European Investment Bank	89
6.	SOURCES OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW	91
6.1	Treaties	91
6.2	General Principles of EU law	92
6.3	Secondary legislation	93
6.3.1	Regulations	94
6.3.2	Directives	95
6.3.3	Decisions	95
6.3.4	Recommendations and opinions	96
6.3.5	International agreements	96

6.3.6	Soft law instruments	96
6.3.7	Case law of the Court of Justice of the EU	97
6.4	Legislative process	97
6.4.1	Ordinary legislative procedure	97
6.4.1.1	The course of the ordinary legislative procedure	98
6.4.2	Special legislative procedure	100
6.4.2.1	<i>Consultation procedure</i>	101
6.4.2.2	<i>Budget Procedure</i>	101
6.4.2.3	<i>Consent procedure</i>	102
6.4.3	Legislative initiative	103
6.4.3.1	<i>Legislative initiative of the European Commission</i>	103
6.4.3.2	<i>Legislative initiative of the European Parliament</i>	103
6.4.3.3	<i>Legislative initiative of a group of member states and other institutions</i>	104
6.4.3.4	<i>Citizens' initiative</i>	104
6.4.4	Bridging clause	105
6.4.5	Publication of EU act – Official Journal of the European Union .	106
Resume	108
Bibliography	109
About the author	112