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Tomasz Dubowski

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CA	–	Court of Auditors
CFSP	–	common foreign and security policy
CJEU	–	Court of Justice of the European Union
CoR	–	Committee of Regions
COREPER	–	Committee of Permanent Representatives
Dz.U.	–	Dziennik Ustaw (Journal of Laws)
EC	–	European Community
ECB	–	European Central Bank
ECR	–	European Court Reports
EEAS	–	European External Action Service
EEC	–	European Economic Community
EGTC	–	European grouping of territorial cooperation
EP	–	European Parliament
ESCB	–	European System of Central Banks
EU	–	European Union
Euratom	–	European Atomic Energy Community
MEP	–	Member of European Parliament
OJ	–	Official Journal
SEA	–	Single European Act
TECSC	–	Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community
TEC	–	Treaty establishing the European Community
TEEC	–	Treaty establishing the European Economic Community
TEU	–	Treaty on European Union
TFEU	–	Treaty on the functioning of the European Union
TL	–	Treaty of Lisbon

INTRODUCTION

The European Union (EU) is a construct which is unique in comparison with traditional international organisations. Its institutional structure, range of competences, its decision making processes and, especially, the nature of EU legislation make it unique. The above issues are likely to be of interest, and familiarity with them would be of use, given the influence the Union exerts over the functioning of the Member States and their citizens.

This book focuses on the issues concerning the EU's political system and institutions and – in accordance with editorial principles – omits issues concerning substantive law of the Union. Consequently, it encompasses the issues affecting the systemic nature of the contemporary Union, including: the legal nature of the Union, its institutional framework, sources of EU law, decision making processes in the EU, control over observance of EU law, and the relationship between Union law and domestic laws of the Member States. These areas are part of the “constitutional law (institutional law of the European Union)”.

The presented book contains basic information regarding the above areas. It is based on the analysis of the European Union legislation – primary and secondary as well as on decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union, and on opinions of researchers in the field, both from Polish and foreign scientific institutions.

This publication fully reflects the impact of the latest reform of the European Union and is based on the current provisions of the Treaty on the European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and on other legislative acts adopted on their basis. Naturally the book also contains provisions of the respective Treaties from the time before the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force by the way of comparison. Other legislative acts adopted before December 2009 are also quoted where these are still in force and govern important aspects of the functioning of the EU.

I would also like to offer thanks for all the help and support to the editor of the series, dr. Izabela Kraśnicka. I hope that the publication will prove a real help in examining the deceptively straightforward issues concerning the constitutional system of the European Union as it stands today. Any imperfections within this book are solely the author's responsibility.

Tomasz Dubowski