

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Research Background	1
1.2	Demarcation of Research	5
1.3	Terminology	6
1.4	Outline	8
	References	10
2	The Dutch Choice of Law Rules on Divorce	13
2.1	Introduction	13
2.2	The Dutch Choice of Law Act on Divorce	14
2.2.1	Development of the Choice of Law on Divorce	14
2.2.2	Scope of Application: Same-Sex Marriages	16
2.2.3	Foundation of the CLAD: <i>Favor Divortii</i>	17
2.3	The Spouses' Choice as to the Applicable Law	19
2.3.1	General: Limited Choice	19
2.3.2	Choice for the Application of Dutch Law (<i>Lex Fori</i>)	21
2.3.3	Choice for the Application of the Common National (Foreign) Law of the Spouses	22
2.3.4	Formal Requirements of the <i>Professio Iuris</i>	22
2.4	The Law Applicable to Divorce in the Absence of a <i>Professio Iuris</i>	26
2.4.1	Nationality or Domicile?	26
2.4.2	Common National Law of the Spouses	28
2.4.3	The Law of the Country in Which Both Parties Have Their Habitual Residence	36
2.4.4	The <i>Lex Fori</i>	37
2.4.5	Date of Reference	38
2.5	Public Policy Exception	39
2.6	The Proposed Amendments of the Choice of Law on Divorce	40
2.7	Conclusion	46
	References	47

3	The Dutch Choice of Law Rules on the Termination of Registered Partnerships	51
3.1	Introduction	51
3.2	The Absence of a Treaty in the Field of Registered Partnerships	53
3.3	The Dutch Choice of Law Act on Registered Partnerships	55
3.3.1	General	56
3.3.2	Characteristics of the CLARP.	58
3.3.3	Scope of Application.	61
3.3.4	Transitional Provision	62
3.4	The Law Applicable to the Termination of Registered Partnerships	64
3.4.1	Foundation of the Choice of Law Rules on the Termination of Registered Partnerships: <i>Favor Dissolutionis</i>	64
3.4.2	Structure of the Choice of Law on the Termination of Registered Partnerships	65
3.4.3	The Choice of Law Rules: General Remarks	66
3.4.4	Termination of Registered Partnerships Entered into in the Netherlands.	68
3.4.5	Termination of Registered Partnerships Entered into Abroad	68
3.5	Public Policy Exception	74
3.6	Will the Dutch Proposal on Private International Law Bring any Changes?	75
3.7	Conclusion	76
	References	77
4	The Europeanisation of International Family Law: The EU Legislature's Competence	79
4.1	Introduction	79
4.2	The Transfer of Competence in the Field of International Family Law to the EU	80
4.2.1	Prior to the Treaty of Amsterdam	81
4.2.2	The Treaty of Amsterdam	84
4.2.3	After the Treaty of Amsterdam.	89
4.3	Why is the EU Developing a Unified System of International Family Law?.	93
4.3.1	General Objectives Fulfilled by a Choice of Law Unification	94
4.3.2	Specific European Aims and Objectives.	98
4.4	EU Competence to Enact Measures of International Family Law: Scope and Limits of Article 81 TFEU	110

- 4.4.1 Judicial Cooperation in Civil Matters 111
- 4.4.2 Cross-Border Implications 113
- 4.4.3 ‘Particularly when Necessary for the Proper Functioning
of the Internal Market’ 113
- 4.4.4 The Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality. 115
- 4.4.5 Legislative Procedure: Article 81(3) TFEU 121
- 4.5 The Role of the European Court of Justice 122
- 4.6 Territorial Limits to European Private International Law:
‘*Europe à Deux Vitesses*’ 124
 - 4.6.1 United Kingdom and Ireland 125
 - 4.6.2 Denmark 126
- 4.7 Synthesis: Is the European Union Competent to Enact
a Common Choice of Law on Divorce? 127
 - 4.7.1 The Development of a Unified Choice
of Law on Divorce 127
 - 4.7.2 Competence Pursuant to Article 65 EC-Treaty 130
 - 4.7.3 Competence Pursuant to Article 81 TFEU 133
- 4.8 Conclusion 133
- References 134

- 5 The Proposed European Choice of Law Rules on Divorce 145**
 - 5.1 Introduction 145
 - 5.2 Divorce in Substantive and Private International Law
of the Member States 146
 - 5.2.1 The Substantive Divorce Laws of the Member States . . . 147
 - 5.2.2 The Choice of Law Rules on Divorce
of the Member States 149
 - 5.3 The Objectives of the Brussels II^{ter}-Proposal 152
 - 5.3.1 Exclusion of *Renvoi* 154
 - 5.4 The Scope of Application of the Proposed Choice
of Law Rules 156
 - 5.4.1 Territorial Scope of Application 156
 - 5.4.2 Substantive Scope of Application 159
 - 5.4.3 Temporal Scope of Application 162
 - 5.5 The Proposed Choice of Law on Divorce 162
 - 5.5.1 The Spouses’ Choice as to the Applicable Law 162
 - 5.5.2 Formal Requirements of the *Professio Iuris* 165
 - 5.5.3 The Applicable Law in the Absence of a Choice
by the Parties 170
 - 5.5.4 Date of Reference 183
 - 5.5.5 The Law Applicable to Divorce: Synthesis. 184
 - 5.6 The Application of Foreign Law 184

5.7	Public Policy Exception	186
5.8	Does the Proposal Attain the Objectives as Set Out by the Commission in the Explanatory Memorandum to the Brussels II <i>ter</i> -Proposal?	188
5.9	Conclusion	191
	References	192
6	The Failure of the Establishment of a Common European Choice of Law on Divorce	199
6.1	Introduction	199
6.2	The Position of Malta	200
6.3	The Problem of Competence.	202
6.3.1	Does the Internal Market Require a Unified Choice of Law on Divorce?	202
6.3.2	Fulfilment of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality	205
6.3.3	Problem of European Competence Solved?	209
6.4	The Methodological Problem	211
6.5	Will There be a Common Choice of Law on Divorce in the EU in the Future?	217
6.5.1	Enhanced Cooperation	219
6.5.2	Limitation of the Scope of Application to Intra-European Cases.	223
6.5.3	Enhancing the Role of the <i>Lex Fori</i>	224
6.5.4	Less Stringent Interpretation of the Principle of the Closest Connection	230
6.5.5	Synthesis	232
6.6	Conclusion	232
	References	233
7	The Dutch and the European Choice of Law Rules on Divorce Compared	237
7.1	Introduction	237
7.2	General Observations.	239
7.2.1	Arrangement of the Choice of Law: General and Specific Provisions	239
7.2.2	Foundation of the Choice of Law on Divorce.	241
7.2.3	Scope of Application.	241
7.3	Structure and Composition of the Choice of Law Rules on Divorce	244
7.4	The Spouses' Choice as to the Applicable Law.	245
7.4.1	Current Dutch Choice of Law on Divorce	245

- 7.4.2 Proposed Dutch Choice of Law on Divorce 246
- 7.5 Formal Requirements of the *Professio Iuris* 247
 - 7.5.1 Form of the *Professio Iuris* 247
 - 7.5.2 Implied Choice of the Spouses as to the
Applicable Law 249
 - 7.5.3 Time of Choice as to the Applicable Law 251
- 7.6 The Law Applicable to Divorce in the Absence
of a *Professio Iuris* 252
 - 7.6.1 Current Dutch Choice of Law on Divorce 252
 - 7.6.2 Proposed Dutch Choice of Law on Divorce 255
- 7.7 Has the Netherlands Rightly Opposed the Brussels
IIter-Proposal as Regards Its Content? 256
 - 7.7.1 The Current Dutch Choice of Law on Divorce 256
 - 7.7.2 The Proposed Dutch Choice of Law on Divorce 258
 - 7.7.3 Synthesis 258
- 7.8 Conclusion 259
- References 260

- 8 A Unified System of International Family Law in the
European Union: Which Way Forward? 263**
 - 8.1 Introduction 263
 - 8.2 What can be Learned from the Brussels IIter-‘Adventure’? 264
 - 8.2.1 General 265
 - 8.2.2 Transparency 267
 - 8.2.3 Interrelationship with Other Areas of (International)
Family Law 269
 - 8.3 Aims and Objectives of European International Family Law. . . . 270
 - 8.4 The Methodology of European International Family Law. 273
 - 8.4.1 The Need for a Theoretical Foundation of European
International Family Law 274
 - 8.4.2 Unique Character of the European Union. 276
 - 8.4.3 General Characteristics of European International
Family Law *De Lege Lata* 287
 - 8.4.4 The Methodology of European International
Family Law *De Lege Ferenda* 290
 - 8.5 Synthesis: Recommendations to the EU Legislature. 302
 - 8.6 To Conclude 304
 - References 304

Appendix 1: Brussels IIter-Proposal 313

**Appendix 2: Council Draft on the Brussels IIter-Proposal
of 23 May 2008 319**

**Appendix 3: Resolution of the European Parliament
on the Brussels IIter-Proposal. 329**

Table of Cases. 335

Index 339