

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The growing importance of European law for the organisation, provision and financing of services of general interest (public services) is accompanied by an increased academic interest in the subject in recent years. This volume seeks to contribute to the debate and to supplement existing works. What distinguishes this book from other treatises of the subject is its broad and comprehensive authorship and its wide range of subjects. Twenty-five authors from ten different Member States, including founding Members and newly acceded ones, aim to sketch a comprehensive picture of the changing legal framework of public services in Europe and to grasp the different views and thoughts on the subject. Apart from a discussion of horizontal issues, such as financing or competition law, this volume also contains nine country reports which show the diverse reactions to and consequences of the changing framework in the Member States.

The chapters of this volume emanate from a conference entitled “The changing framework of public services in Europe – The impact of European competition, state aid and procurement law on financing and organizing services of general economic interest” held at the University of Potsdam, Germany, in April 2008. The original presentations at the conference were revised after the event and combined with two additional chapters to complete the picture. Generally, the law is stated as of 1 October 2008.

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