

# **Legal Issues of Services of General Interest**

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# The EU Services Directive: Law or Simply Policy?



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## Series Information

The aim of the series *Legal Issues of Services of General Interest* is to sketch the framework for services of general interest in the EU and to explore the issues raised by developments related to these services. The Series encompasses, inter alia, analyses of EU internal market, competition law, legislation (such as the Services Directive), international economic law and national (economic) law from a comparative perspective. Sector-specific approaches will also be covered (health, social services). In essence, the present Series addresses the emergence of a European Social Model and will therefore raise issues of fundamental and theoretical interest in Europe and the global economy.

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# Preface

The understanding and interpretation of the EU Services Directive is a moving target and thus both an enduring and thrilling investigation. This book is the result of my profound curiosity in understanding the Services Directive and what consequences it could have on the national room for manoeuvrability for the Member States of the EU.

The process of forming the final text has been an exciting journey in which I have had great support. I would therefore like to express my gratitude to Uppsala University which, through a scholarship, has enabled me to finalise this book. I would also like to express my special thanks to Prof. Ulla Neergaard, Prof. Johan van de Gronden and Prof. Markus Krajewski for giving me this opportunity and, in this respect, especially, Prof. Erika Szyszczak for also providing insightful comments and help in improving the text. Furthermore, many thanks to Associate Professor Jane Reichel and Prof. Antonina Bakardjieva Engelbrekt for their general support and to Robert Houser for the language corrections. Finally, my deepest thanks to my loving family for allowing me to take the time to complete this mission.

Stockholm, Summer 2014

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# Abbreviations

CER	Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement
EAEC	European Atomic Energy Community Treaty
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EEC	European Economic Community
EFTA	European Free Trade Area
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Area
SEA	Single European Act
SGEI	Services of General Economic Interest
SIGI	Services of General Interest
TEC	European Community Treaty
TEU	Treaty on the European Union
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
WTO	World Trade Organisation