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## PREFACE

This book explores some consequences of European integration for the application of public international law in the European Union and its Member States. While in the early stages of the European integration process these consequences were rather modest, in recent years they have become increasingly important. As a consequence of the combination of expansion of the regulatory domain of international law and the increasing scope of competences of the EU, much of international law becomes part of the legal order of the EU and in that sense is 'europeanised'. It is becoming a system that is distinguishable from general international law.

The book focuses on one set of characteristics of europeanisation in particular: the consequences of europeanisation for the effects of public international law within the national legal orders of EU Member States. Normally, the constitutional law of each State determines the implementation of international obligations and the status and effect of such obligations on the national law level. However, for the Member States of the EU this 'classic' legal relationship between international and national law is modified into a new triangular relationship: international law, EU law and national law. Europeanisation of international law means that EU law determines how international law is to be applied in the EU Member States.

The scope and consequences of this process have not been subjected to much scholarly analysis. It also seems that, to a large extent, they have not been recognised in practice. This book aims to fill part of the gap and contribute to our understanding of the europeanisation of international law, in particular as it affects the domestic law of the Member States.

The chapters in this book were originally presented at a conference held at the Amsterdam Center for International Law, University of Amsterdam and co-organised with the Universities of Leuven, Ljubljana and Pecs, in the Netherlands, on 2 September 2005. They were reworked on the basis of the discussions at the conference and in light of later developments. The conference was made possible by contributions from the Research School Ius Commune, the Universiteit van Amsterdam, Amsterdam Center for International Law, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

For the Amsterdam Center for International Law, the conference and the book are part of the project *Interactions between Public International Law and National Law*. The project, funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, has explored several legal questions arising from the increasing and changing interactions between international law and national law. The process of Europeanisation of international law and the emergence of a triangular relationship: international law, EU law and national law, is one of these new forms of interactions. For the

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies and Institute for International Law of Leuven University, these interactions belong to its core research focus on the role of the European Union in multilateral governance and legal processes.

We would like to thank Emily Bell, Stefanie Küfner and Caitilin McGivern for their excellent editorial assistance in the preparation of the book

*April 2008*

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