

PREFACE

This book contains a study comparing the treaty making practices and rules of the European Communities (EC) and the European Union (EU) with those of the International Law of Treaties. Here notably the Vienna Conventions of 1969 and 1986, concluded in the framework of the United Nations, are of importance.

The study illustrates the growing importance of the EC and the EU as international players in an ever globalizing world.

The book is unique to the extent that up to this moment only limited literature is available on this subject.

The European Constitution which has been politically agreed upon on 18 June 2004 by the Representatives of the Member States of the EU, aims at abolishing the pillar structure of the EU, integrating the European Communities into the EU and, finally but not least, formally granting legal personality to the single remaining international organisation, the European Union. In doing so the Constitution, once entered into force, certainly will give more impetus to the state-like characteristics and the identity of the European Union and, thus, to its capacity to act internationally as a fully recognized subject of international law.

The author, Dr Delano R. Verwey, is a specialist both of EU law and of public international law, and therefore pre-eminently well placed to write the book which is in front of you.

Let us hope that the book will give rise to further reading, research and writing regarding the relationship between the European Union legal order and International Law taken in its broadest sense.

Rotterdam, July 2004

Jaap W. DE ZWAAN
*Professor of the Law of the European Union
Erasmus Law School
Erasmus University Rotterdam
The Netherlands*