

## Preface and Acknowledgments

Over the last 20 years, it has become clear that EU law has had a considerable impact on health care, despite the limited EU competence to legislate in this field. A very important development is the Commission's proposal for a Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-border Health Care. In response to these controversial developments in October 2009, a conference on Health Care and EU law was held at the Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. This book contains the proceedings of this vibrant conference and, in addition, other contributions that were commissioned by the editors to address a wide variety of significant themes related to health care and EU law. Given that the ECJ's case law on the free movement of patients was an important starting point, the present volume places the emphasis on internal market and competition issues.

This book is the second volume of the Series *Legal Issues of Services of General Interest*. The aim of this series is to explore legal developments regarding Services of General Economic Interest from a national, EU, WTO and comparative perspective. In 2009, the first volume, *The Changing Legal Framework for Services of General Interest in Europe. Between Competition and Solidarity* was published stemming from an international conference organised in Potsdam, Germany.

We would like to thank all authors for their interesting and stimulating papers. Their studies greatly contribute to a better understanding of the growing importance of EU Law for health care. Furthermore, we are very grateful for the generous financial support that we received from the Board of the Law Faculty of the Radboud University Nijmegen to organise the conference on health care and EU Law. We are very aware that this conference would not have seen the light of day without the organisational and administrative support of the Centre for Postacademic Legal Education of the Nijmegen Law Faculty. Members of the staff of this centre, especially Wieneke Paulssen, were of great help.

The book was edited in the course of 2010 in close co-operation between the four editors. Additional thanks are owed to Nina Harteveld, student-assistant at the Department of International and European law of the Nijmegen Law Faculty, for her work on the indexes.

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### **Post Script**

In January 2011 the European Parliament adopted a revised text of the Directive on patient's rights to second reading.

At the moment of the publishing of the present volume, a meeting of the Council was scheduled with regard to this directive in March 2011. These developments are not addressed in this volume.