
PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present volume constitutes the last part of a triptych, with earlier works dealing with conflict prevention (V. Kronenberger and J. Wouters, eds., *The European Union and Conflict Prevention: Policy and Legal Aspects* (The Hague, T.M.C. Asser Press 2004)) and crisis management respectively (S. Blockmans, ed., *The European Union and Crisis Management: Policy and Legal Aspects* (The Hague, T.M.C. Asser Press 2008)). The obvious implication is that we aim at focusing on the final phase of peacemaking efforts to break conflict cycles, on *The European Union and Peacebuilding*.

Leading practitioners and prominent academics have been invited to explore the wide variety of policy and legal aspects of the European Union's contribution to building durable peace in countries ravaged by violent conflict. The book is testimony to the enormous complexity of international efforts to break conflict cycles, which requires both long-term commitment and a multi-faceted approach, combining the re-establishment of basic security with the promotion of respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance and economic recovery.

Given the intricacies and dynamics of the editorial process, some of the contributions were completed prior to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. Where appropriate, these contributions nonetheless refer to the impact expected from the new Treaty. Other chapters have integrated the institutional developments since the Lisbon Treaty became operational. In any event, the editors are convinced that this divergence does not detract from the value of the analyses, nor from the lessons drawn from years of inter-institutional practice and which should be taken to heart to make the Union's efforts in the field of peacebuilding more efficient and more effective.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the practitioners and academics who contributed to this volume. Thanks to their unique insights and high quality contributions, the book offers the first comprehensive and in-depth treatise of the role of the EU in the international peacebuilding endeavour. Special thanks also go to the T.M.C. Asser Instituut for financially supporting the production of this book, to Suzanne Habraken for her sub-editing and language-editing of the manuscript and to Steffen van der Velde for compiling the index and the list of abbreviations. This volume is the result of a fruitful cooperation between the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER) and the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies.