

# Preface

Over recent years, a significant proportion of my research work has been concerned with the desirability of reforming both domestic and European consumer law. In the European context, the main focus was on the *EC Consumer Law Compendium and Database* project, directed by Hans Schulte-Nölke (Osnabrück), which was a large-scale analysis of how a number of EU Consumer Law directives had been transposed into the national laws of the 27 EU Member States. This work, and my interest in the debate about the Europeanisation of Contract Law, shaped the idea which is the subject of this short book, which is the suggestion that the future development of EU Consumer Law should concentrate on cross-border transactions. To some, this may seem like a very odd idea, but I hope that the discussion in this book might persuade both academic colleagues and policymakers to give this idea some thought—and hopefully prior to any final decisions being taken on an “optional instrument” on European Contract Law.

This book draws on some of my earlier published work, notably articles published in the *Journal of Consumer Policy*<sup>1</sup> and the *European Review of Contract Law*.<sup>2</sup> It brings together ideas from those two papers, but expands on both, and also modifies some of the suggestions I have made previously as my thinking on this topic has developed further. I have also sought to provide some general background to assist a reader unfamiliar with the wider context, but have tried to be concise so as to maintain the focus on the specific argument I am making in this book.

I am grateful to a number of colleagues who have offered their comments on my ideas (whilst not necessarily agreeing with them), notably Roger Brownsword (King’s College London), Hugh Beale (Warwick) and Geraint Howells (Manchester),

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<sup>1</sup> C. Twigg-Flesner, “Time to do the Job Properly – the Case for a New Approach to EU Consumer Legislation” (2010) 33(4) *Journal of Consumer Policy* 355–375.

<sup>2</sup> C. Twigg-Flesner, “‘Good-Bye Harmonization by Directives, Hello Cross-Border only Regulation?’ – A way forward for EU Consumer Contract Law” (2011) 7 *European Review of Contract Law* 235–256.

as well as colleagues from SECOLA who commented on my paper at the Leuven conference in January 2011. Thanks are also due to colleagues here at Hull for a supportive research environment.

I am particularly grateful that this book was signed for the new *SpringerBrief* series, because I had realised that I needed to say more than I could in the two papers previously mentioned, but did not see the need to expand my ideas into a full-length monograph. Thanks to Nick Philipson at Springer for taking on this project and for his never-ending patience as completion of the manuscript was delayed for various reasons, most of which were down to my desire to await imminent developments at the European level.

However, some were personal reasons, and I would have found these considerably more difficult, if not impossible, to deal with, had it not been for the support and friendship of Paul Kilford. It is to him I dedicate this book with enormous gratitude.

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A Fresh Approach to EU Consumer Law

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