

Preface

Early in July 2012, Professors Esther Versluis, Director of Studies of the MA in European Public Affairs of the University of Maastricht, and Christine Arnold from the Department of Political Science of that University, invited me to participate in the MA program on European Studies as a Visiting Professor. They proposed that in autumn I give a set of six *Guest Lectures* on *The Economics of Monetary Union and the Eurozone Crisis*.

Over the summer, I was very engaged with the preparation of the teaching material for this set of six lectures, now transformed into the six chapters of this book. It was a great honour to participate in the University of Maastricht's MA program on European Studies, and I would like to thank both professors for giving me the opportunity to do so. I also wish to thank Professor Vicent Almenar who assisted me in the preparation of the graphs and tables. Thanks are also due to Sallie Russell, responsible for the final version of the text in English.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to my beloved wife, Yvonne, who as always, showed exceptional patience and indulgence with me during the long summer days when I was typing the manuscript.

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