

Foreword

It is easy to honour an academic such as Hans Micklitz. The list of contributors and the richness of contributions to this book prove the obvious: The jubilee has earned and still earns manifold merits among young and established scholars. There is hence no need for songs of praise, we simply let the contributions speak for themselves.

What is needed to address here, however, is the need for a *liber amicorum* for Hans Micklitz. There is criticism that needs to be taken into account. Some of them target the tradition of Festschriften as such. Ingo von Münch once complained that those Festschriften seldom contained original scholarship; they would rather be a vanity fair for the authors, editors, and jubilees.¹ The other issue may be the timing—Hans Micklitz celebrates his 65th birthday, while he is still fully integrated into the European University Institute as Head of Department of Law with no sign of resting and no prospect of retiring.

A humorous answer to the issue of timing would be: If we waited until Hans' retirement, we might never be able to hand over this *liber amicorum* to him in person. But then, the answer to why we nonetheless ignored all that and decided to organise this *liber amicorum* is simple: We had no idea what else we could present to Hans Micklitz on his 65th birthday but true and excellent European legal scholarship, firmly rooted in the realities of life. And this is also the reply to the other potential critique: This book is not the type of Festschrift that Ingo von Münch may have had in mind, it is a true *liber amicorum*, a present from friends to Hans Micklitz. It is also a mix of true European scholarship by most distinguished and established scholars and youngsters alike. A book which shall be interesting not only for those who honour the work of Hans Micklitz, but for all who have an interest in academic debate on most timely topics of European Economic Law and Regulation.

The contributions were due on 1st of December 2013.

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¹ I von Münch, 'Das Festschriftwesen und -unwesen' (2000) *Neue Juristische Wochenschrift* 3253.

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