

Acknowledgements

This book is largely based on a Ph.D. thesis defended at the Faculty of Law and Criminology of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in May 2013. It would not have been possible without the help of Prof. Dr. Serge Gutwirth (main supervisor). For his inestimable knowledge, dedicated support, and exceptional kindness, I consider myself extremely lucky. I am also deeply indebted to Prof. Dr. Paul De Hert (co-supervisor), without whom my academic career would have been significantly less stimulating; to Dr. Antoinette Rouvroy (member of the thesis' Advisory Commission), for her advice and sustained encouragement, and to all the members of the jury for their precious comments and questions: Prof. Dr. Colin Bennett, Prof. Dr. Em. Bart De Schutter, Prof. Dr. Youri Devuyst, Prof. Dr. Mireille Hildebrandt, and Dr. Ricard Martínez Martínez,

I would like to acknowledge the financial support of some projects to which I contributed while carrying out this research: *Reflexive Governance in the Public Interest* (REFGOV), *Converging and conflicting ethical values in the internal/external security in continuum in Europe* (INEX), and *Privacy and Security Mirrors* (PRISMS), all co-funded by the European Union. The collaboration of the staff of the European Parliament's Register of Documents, and at the Historical Archives of the European Commission, was particularly helpful. I also thank VUB's Institute of European Studies (IES), and the Law, Science, Technology and Society (LSTS) Research Group for their kind hospitality. I am thankful to all my colleagues; I cannot mention them all, so I will just mention Rocco Bellanova.

Guillaume De Martelaer encouraged me to undertake this research a long time ago, and has supported me ever since. Our son Jean has been waking me up every morning with a smile. For their help, patience and inspiration, I am profoundly grateful. I am also very much indebted to Josiane and Guy De Martelaer for their affection and availability, and to Daniel González Fuster for his infallible assistance. Thank you.

The Emergence of Personal Data Protection as a
Fundamental Right of the EU

Gonzalez Fuster, G.

2014, XVI, 274 p. 1 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-05022-5