EDITORIAL NOTE

European Union law is changing rapidly each year. In 1999, the coming into force of the Treaty amending the Treaty on European Union changed many substantive provisions of all the Treaties, including the numbering of their provisions. The present book is revised annually. The law in this edition is stated as at 1st June, 2002.

Since European Union law is still relatively young, there are some respects in which it presents puzzling ambiguities and inconsistencies. Secondary legislation is eccentrically numbered; and even the names of the Institutions themselves are often recorded incorrectly in official documents. This book therefore imposes its own rules. The names of the Institutions are taken from the Treaties (see Chapter 10). Legislation is normally referred to with the year appearing last. Case-law is referred to simply by the official number and year of the case, which is quite enough to find the case on web-sites and in the other main sources of Community law. Articles of Treaties are referred to by their current numbers; but readers are warned that the old numbers may be mentioned in the text, for example, in quotations from court judgments antedating the renumbering. The standard abbreviations of the Treaties are used: for example, the Treaty establishing the European Community – the most frequently cited in the book – is "the EC Treaty".

Examples:

Legislation. Council Directive EEC/250/91 on the legal protection of computer programs. The Council is the body in this case responsible for adopting the legislation; in other cases, it may be "the European Parliament and the Council" or "the Commission". The Directive is the type of legislative instrument; in other cases, it may be "Regulation" or "Decision". EEC refers to the European Economic Community; since November, 1993, this is "EC"; and other measures may begin with "ECSC" or "EAEC". 250 is the number, 91 the year. This sequence is often varied in the official documents.

Case-law. Case 402/85, *Basset v SACEM*; Case T-107/94, *Kik v Council*; C- 267/95, *Merck & Co v Primecrown Ltd.* These citations will find the cases, whether on the web-site, in text-books, in the official reports or in other law reports. Where the case number is not preceded by a letter, this means that the case antedates the separation of the Court into a Court of First Instance and a final appellate Court. Since the separation, in 1988, the citations have begun either with a "T" for Tribunal, signifying the Court of First Instance, or a "C" for Court, signifying the Court of Justice itself.

Articles of Treaties. Article 308, EC Treaty. This is a shorter version of the following, which would indicate both the old numbering and the old abbreviation: Article 308, EC Treaty (formerly Article 235, EEC Treaty).