

BOOK REVIEW

Viktor Luszcz, *European Court Procedure, A Practical Guide*, Hart Publishing 2020, 784 pages. ISBN: 9781841130538

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Litigation before the Court of Justice of the European Union takes place following a procedure which has been developed on the basis of the EU Treaties, a significant amount of case-law produced in the nearly 70 years of the Court's existence and the rules of procedure of the Court of Justice and the General Court.

The post-Lisbon structure of the EU judiciary formation has been further complemented by the reform of the General Court. The transfer of jurisdiction from the Civil Service Tribunal, the increase in the number of judges and the new Rules of Procedure of the General Court adopted in 2015, create the need for practitioners to keep up with an ever-evolving landscape. Navigating through the different resources and materials which shape EU procedural law can be a complex endeavour even for those experienced in EU Law. This is part of the appeal of EU litigation.

This endeavour can now be supported by the work put together by Victor Luszcz in the recently published book *European Court Procedure, A Practical Guide*. The book is the result of extensive and meticulous work by legal secretaries (*référéndaires*) and members of the Commission's Legal Service. Luszcz has worked on this book next to Alexandre Geulette, Viktor Bottka, Martin Farley, Milan Kristof and Vivien Terrien. Their insight in, and long engagement with, the Luxembourg Court has been central in providing them with the ability of outlining complex procedural matters in a comprehensive and informative manner.

The book is divided in five parts. Luszcz, provides an overview of the system of enforcement of EU law and the organisation of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the initial Part. Following, in Part 2, Kristof and Guelette elaborate on the procedure followed in infringement actions and preliminary rulings. Part 3 is authored by Luszcz, Bottka, Farley and Guelette and extensively presents the procedural elements and characteristics of the different legal avenues available for protection against EU acts. Then, Luszcz, Bottka, and Guelette proceed, in Part 4, by analysing the common procedure before EU courts as well as the special formal requirements in different types of actions. A final Part by Luszcz, Bottka, Farley and Terrien concludes with details on incidental and ancillary procedures, like interim procedures, interventions and costs, among other issues.

Overall, the book provides a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the procedural elements of EU litigation. Apart from the presentation of the EU Court procedure as it stands today, the text also points to where and when changes took place with respect to different procedures. What is more the book is enriched by extensive references to case-law. The case-law employed is not presented and analysed at length, as would be typical in most

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theoretical studies. Instead, this book aims at informing the reader on the current state of EU procedural law as it has been finally formed after years of legal dispute before the EU Courts. For this reason, the authors make references to all the cornerstone case-law (old and new) that has shaped EU procedural law, so the readers can then seek on their own more in-depth knowledge outside the realms of the specific procedural elements which each case gave rise to.

A significant advantage of the book lies in its format. Its detailed outline in connection with the choice of the authors to structure each section in short numbered paragraphs with clear and articulate titles make the book an excellent reference guide. The reader can effortlessly search through the book and find which part of it could be of help at each time due to the excellent classification.

The President of the General Court, Marc van der Woude, in the foreword of the book mentions that 'More than just another new theoretical study, this book really is a practical and useful tool that I sincerely recommend.' Indeed, the extensive work of the authors in examining and analysing a sizeable amount of case-law in light of its procedural value, along with its masterly presentation, make this book an excellent addition to the library of every practicing lawyer. The choice of outline and classification of different procedures and the intelligibility with respect to the procedural requirements of the different paths that could bring litigants to Luxembourg, add to the value of this contribution. They make it fit both for experienced practitioners and for lawyers who are just starting to engage in EU litigation and as a result, it could prove an indispensable addition to their libraries.

Finally, this book could also be used as a teaching material to provide a concise overview of the basics of EU procedure. This is so because it conclusively covers the developments of the case law with respect to judicial practice at EU level. As such, it could offer significant guidance to EU law students at early stages of their education.