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New Journal

The concept of a European Contract Law is new. The term was first conceived in the 1990s, little more than a decade ago. Yet today it already appears to comprise an increasingly comprehensive body of law, driven by the European Commission's Communication on European Contract Law and directed by the Commission's Action Plan. In another ten years, it may turn out that contract law will be the first area of European Private Law to be regulated in a fully fleshed out European Code.

European Contract Law comprises such diverse areas of the law as sales, standard contract terms, distribution chains, marketing practices, research and development agreements, contract law copyright aspects, financial and investment services contracts, insurance contracts and e-commerce, but also non-discrimination within and outside labour law and more generally important aspects of labour contracts and other symbiotic contracts.

So far, there is no journal, no permanent platform, specifically for European Contract Law. The importance and the breadth of the field are such, however, that a specialised journal is needed. It will discuss the body of law in three sections: articles, the case law and the literature on EC Contract Law, mainly in book reviews, and, in addition, will contain shorter section on the most recent EC Legislation, Sectoral Developments, National Developments and Other News. With this, it will primarily cover the existing law at the EC level, all rules influencing the formation, content and execution of contracts, from default rules to regulation, from marketing aspects to contents of contracts, from consumer (and also labour) law to general contract law. In this, the journal should be as open and also interdisciplinary as possible, providing the chance to read traditional 'dogmatic' explanations of the upcoming and existing law, but also its economic analysis and a discussion of the foundations and the major structural features. Also comparative law will play a certain role. And the journal will be the platform for the discussion of proposals of codification or, more generally, systemisation and comprehensive development of contract law at the EC level. The European Contract Law Code is too realistic an option and much too important not to be thoroughly discussed in as transparent a way as possible - with as many competing ideas and approaches as possible. The journal is meant to help in establishing a functioning market of ideas in one of the core areas of private law and one of the most important areas of European Private Law. Here it is, the journal which covers this large body of law and the modern solutions to the problems encountered.

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