

The EUR-Charts project / 'EC Law in Charts' Visualising European Union law to foster understanding

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Starting point: 4 Theses

- **Generation internet:**
The 'generation internet' expects to find the most relevant information on one single page and then to follow hyperlinks that may be chaotic.
- **Generation iPod:**
Students of the 'generation iPod' understand and memorise graphic structures faster than mere texts.
- **Generation executive summary:**
The business community expects short and concise documents with easy presentation of the most relevant information (+ organigrammes and excel charts).
- **Generation global village:**
Grafic representations use less language and are therefore more suitable to use for cross-border communication.

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- I. Introduction
- II. Need
- III. Implementation
- IV. Application

Introduction

1. The EUR-Charts project

- EUR-Charts: a project concerning visualising law.
- See <http://www.eur-charts.eu>
- The concept of 'blueprints':
,Visualising law, as we are attempting to do in this project, gives one a very different perspective. It gives you some idea of what the blueprint of the edifice of Community law would look like. Not unlike architecture, the basic concepts seem misleadingly simple. The challenge lies in making the right connections, and that is in essence what this project hopes to do. At the same time - like ,real' blueprints - any visualisation of the law is an abstract simplification, and no substitute for conventional methods of study.'

I. Introduction

2. Charts on EC law

- Charts on EC law:
First concrete application of visualising law in the framework of the *EUR-Charts Project*.
- Publication in the shape of a book:
Christa Tobler/Jacques Beglinger, Essential EC Law in Charts, Budapest: HVG-Orac 2007.
- Content:
 - Basics of EC law (and to a certain extent also of EU law) with elements of visualisation.
 - Electronic complementary chapter on the Lisbon Treaty; see <http://www.eur-charts.eu>.

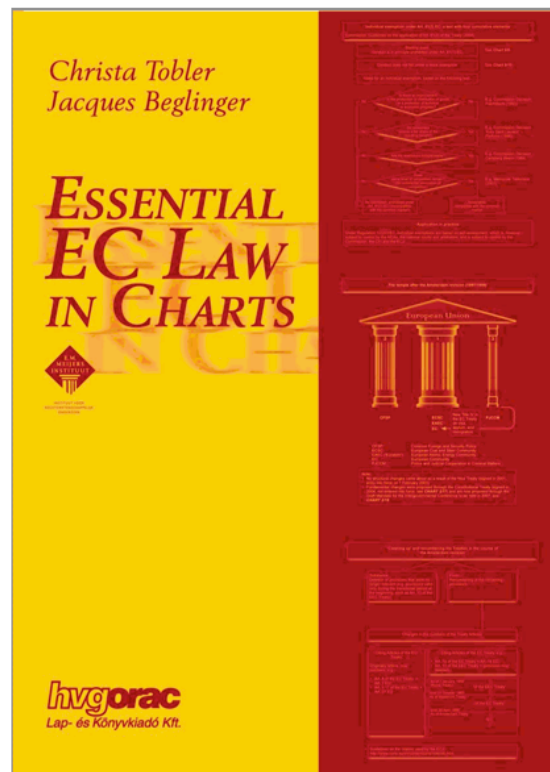
I. Introduction

2. Charts on EC law

- Europe-wide project organisation:
 - Project Chair: NL (Leiden University) / CH (Basel University)
 - Authors: NL (Leiden University) / CH (Basel University) / CH (Zurich)
 - Cooperation on the conceptual level / on the social law chapter: PT (University of Fernando Pessoa, Porto)
 - Cooperation on the competition law chapter: NL (Europa Institute, Leiden University)
 - Tables of materials: LT / CH
 - Language check / editing: EI (Dublin)
 - Technical administration: CH (Zurich)
 - Layout / printing / publishing: HU (Budapest)

I. Introduction

2. Charts on EC law



I. Introduction

2. Charts on EC law

Extensions (see <http://www.eur-charts.eu>):

- [Electronic complementary chapter on the Lisbon Treaty]
- Charts on EC indirect discrimination law (ordered by the European Commission)
- Chart on the status of third-country national immigrants in the EU
- **Charts on EC sex equality law** (developed at the *Giessbach Seminar*)

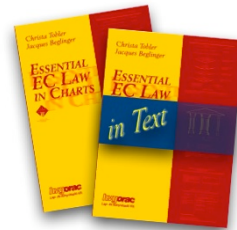
Forthcoming:

- Second, revised edition of the book in view of the Lisbon Treaty.
- Translations in other languages, e.g. French, German, Chinese (?)
- Electronic comprehensive edition with interactive links to the materials (full text of a referenced cases and legislation).
- Electronic ,teacher's edition (Format 'Power point').
- *,Essential EC Law in Text'* (see next chart)

I. Introduction

Extension to *Essential EC Law in Charts*: book *Essential EC Law in Text*

- Complementary publication to 'Essential EC Law in Charts'
- Aims at novice law students/practitioners and/or non-law students/practitioners
- Extensive 'textual hyperlinks' towards the content of 'Essential EC Law in Charts'
- Book:
 - Forthcoming (due February 2010)
 - No graphic elements
 - Approx. 110 pages
 - Moderate price (approx. EUR 15 + shipping)



II. Need

1. Education

- Years of teaching experience:
Need for easy understanding in legal and other education.
- Classic legal education:
Need for simplification and focus in view in particular of the standard text books with up to 1000 pages of pure text.
- Similar in other educations, where law in itself is a challenge:
 - Mixed educations where law is a side aspect (e.g. major philosophy, minor international law)
 - Interdisciplinary educations (e.g. interdisciplinary studies on European integration)
 - Non-legal educations where law is an integrated subject-matter (e.g. economy, international relations)

II. Need

2. Legal practice

- Years of experience in the legal profession:
Need for means to convey legal content in ways other than language in courses, conferences, talks with clients and so forth.
- In the legal context:
 - Lawyers in general
 - Not specialised company lawyers and government lawyers
 - Attorneys-at-law
- In the non-legal context:
 - E.g. work with engineers
 - E.g. work with economists
- In working with clients.

II. Need

2. Legal practice

Example: Company Compliance Directive in a sensitive area

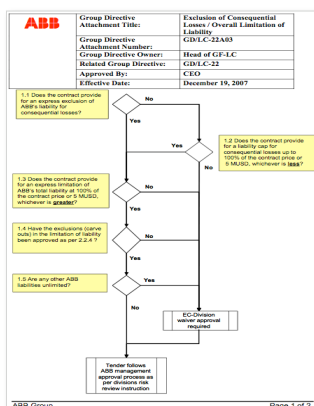
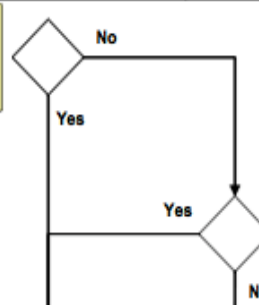


ABB	Group Directive Attachment Title:	Exclusion of Consequential Losses / Overall Limitation of Liability
	Group Directive Attachment Number:	GD/LC-22A03
	Group Directive Owner:	Head of GF-LC
	Related Group Directive:	GD/LC-22
	Approved By:	CEO
	Effective Date:	December 19, 2007

1.1 Does the contract provide for an express exclusion of ABB's liability for consequential losses?



1.2 Does the contract provide for a liability cap for consequential losses up to 100% of the contract price or 5 MUSD, whichever is less?

III. Implementation

1. Logical structures (1)

- Underlying idea:
To show logical structures and connections in the law.
- Means:
Combination of (i) the classic element of language in order to describe legal content with (ii) non-linguistic elements.
- In particular:
 - Topic charts
 - Decision Trees
 - Tables

III. Implementation

1. Logical structures (2)

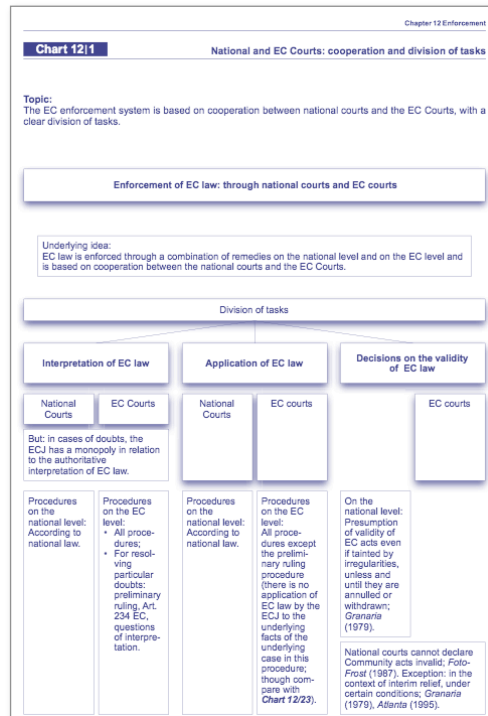
- Topic charts and decision trees:
Main elements to show logical structures.
- From the preface to 'Essential EC Law in Charts':

'The overall structure of this book is designed to guide the (uninitiated) reader towards a specific legal issue through 'topic charts' and 'decision trees'. In this way, the core of the vast body of primary EC law, secondary EC law, and case law of the European Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance becomes accessible in a quick and practical way. For academics and practitioners who possess specialised knowledge of EC law, the decision trees provide a comprehensive checklist.'

III. Implementation

1. Logical structures (3)

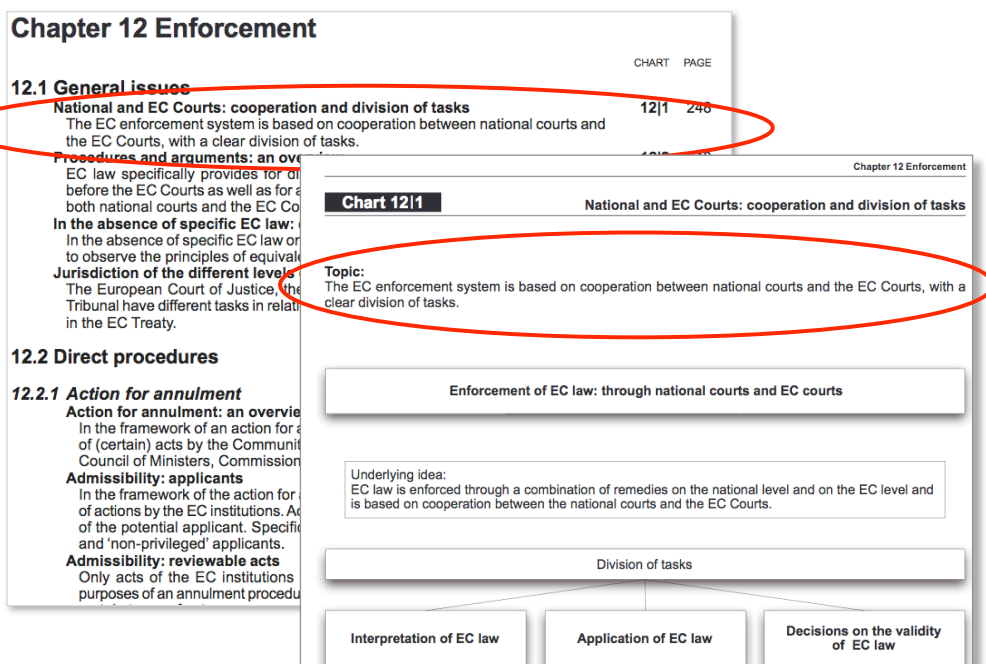
■ Topic charts



III. Implementation

1. Logical structures (4)

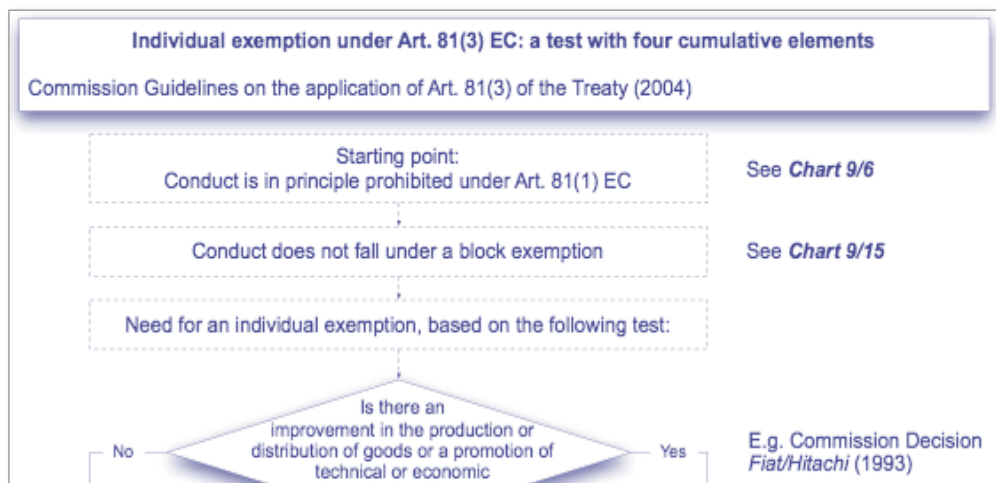
■ Topic charts



III. Implementation

1. Logical structures (5)

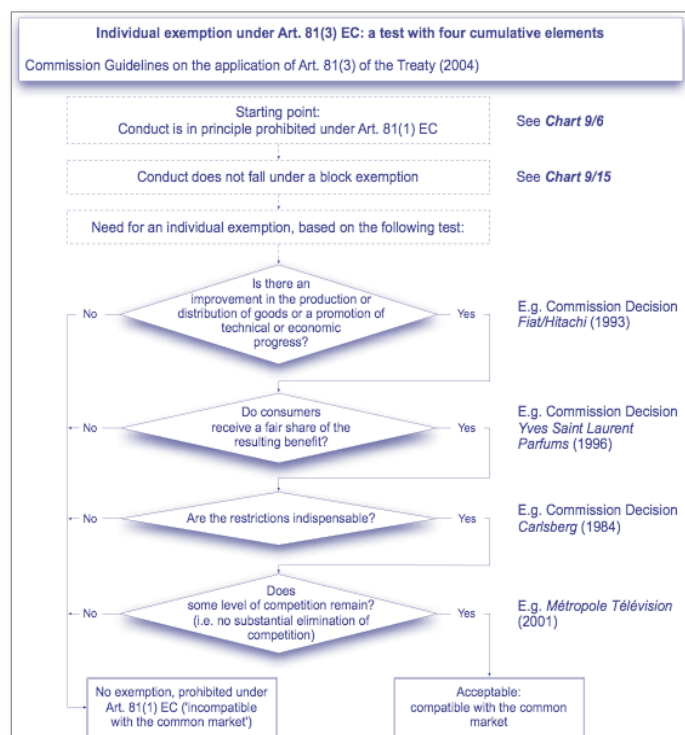
■ Decision trees



III. Implementation

1. Logical structures (6)

■ Decision trees



III. Implementation

1. Logical structures (7)

- Classic tables complement the charts.
- From the 'Note to users' in 'Essential EC Law in Charts':

'[I]n order to gain maximum benefit [...], the charts should be read in conjunction with the relevant legislative provisions and case law as mentioned therein. All of these materials are easily available on the internet. [...] Throughout the charts, cases are referred to merely by case name, and secondary legislative measures only by the measure's number.'

Following the charts, this book contains a list of legislative and other measures as well as of cases. In this list, further information is provided which can be used for finding the measure or case on the internet.'

III. Implementation

2. Graphic aspects (1)

- Underlying idea:
Visualisation through the use of graphic elements in the charts.
- Design guidelines:
 - Creating directives on the use of graphic elements, with a view to consistency
 - Proved to be work in progress ...

III. Implementation

2. Graphic aspects (2)

From the design guidelines:

- **I.3 → Structure of any Chart**
 - Any Chart consists of three layers:
 - **I.3.1 → Master Layer (Portrait or Landscape):**
 - → Manually: "<Chapter title>"
 - → Automatic: "<file name> (top left)",
 - → Automatic: "<Chart title> (bottom left)",
 - → Automatic: "<page number within file> | <total number of pages of the file> (bottom centre)"
 - → Automatic: "Modified: <Date last modified>"
 - **I.3.2 → Title Layer:**
 - → Chart title (must be strictly identical with Chart [=canvas, =page] name),
 - → Chart number tag, to the right of the Chart title, in format "[font Braggadocio, reversed]Chart [font: Arial, bold, reversed]<Chapter number> | (page number within file) (e.g. Chart 3 | 8)"
 - **I.3.3 → Chart Layer:**
 - See II.3 and III.3 below.
- **I.4 → Version management**
 - → As a rule, the entire package is shifted from one editing person to the next in a .zip-file, named by convention as: <months> <year> <initials of editing person>.zip (e.g.

III. Implementation

2. Graphic aspects (3)

- Various different types of elements, including in particular:
 - Picture
 - Pictogrammes
 - Showing the level of relevance through graphic elements

III. Implementation

2. Graphic aspects (4)

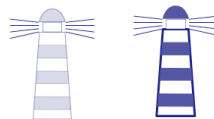
- Picture for particularly important issues.
- E.g.:
Changes in the structure of the European Union through the Treaty revision of Lisbon (Reform Treaty; signed on 13 December 2007 in Lisbon, ratification ongoing).



III. Implementation

2. Graphic aspects (5)

- Pictogrammes:
Use of pictogrammes were under consideration.
- E.g. for landmark decisions of the European Court of Justice:



[Landmark Cases!]

- E.g. for particularly important elements:



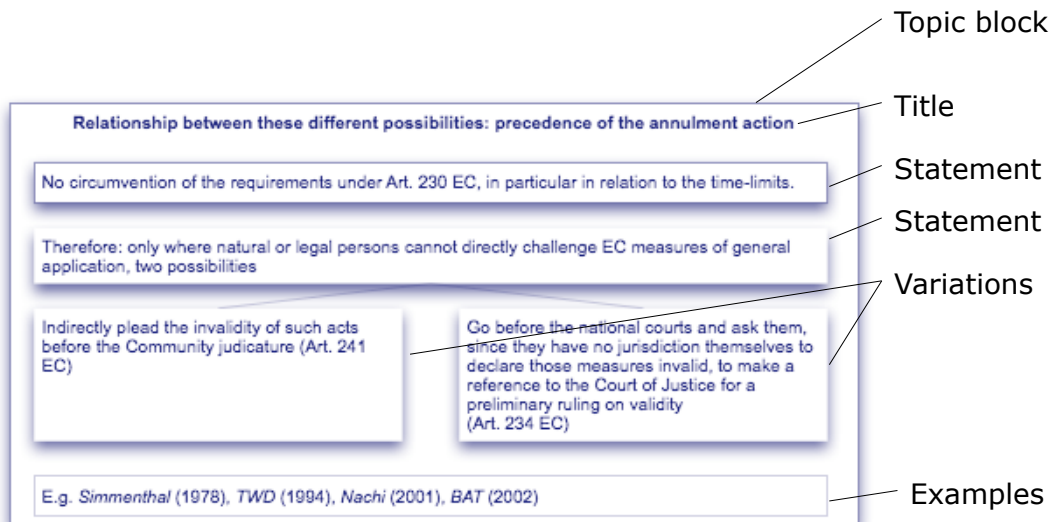
[Memorise!]

- Not used in the end because adding 'too much' on a given page. Also: students and professionals have different needs.

III. Implementation

2. Graphic aspects (6)

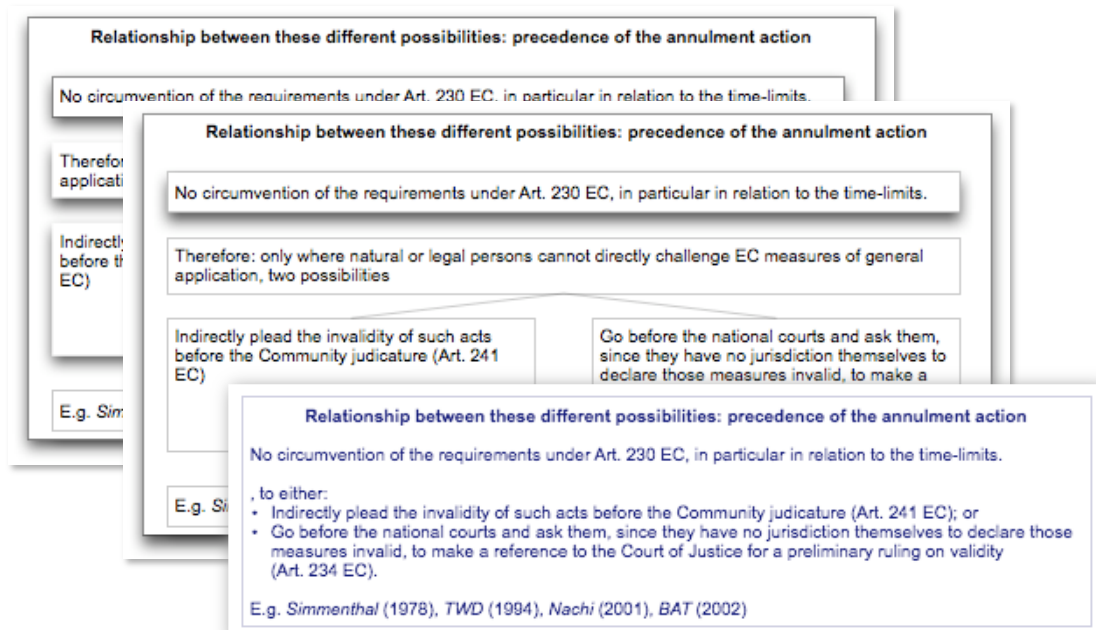
- Showing the level of relevance through graphic elements
- Possible: distinction between different levels of content



III. Implementation

2. Graphic aspects (7)

- Limits



III. Implementation

2. Graphic elements (8)

- Limits of the use of graphic elements:
Decision in favour of the simple version:

Relationship between these different possibilities: precedence of the annulment action

No circumvention of the requirements under Art. 230 EC, in particular in relation to the time-limits.

, to either:

- Indirectly plead the invalidity of such acts before the Community judicature (Art. 241 EC); or
- Go before the national courts and ask them, since they have no jurisdiction themselves to declare those measures invalid, to make a reference to the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on validity (Art. 234 EC).

E.g. *Simmenthal* (1978), *TWD* (1994), *Nachi* (2001), *BAT* (2002)

III. Implementation

3. Importance of internet technology (1)

- Central role of internet technology in relation to the content of the charts:
Web approach, e-readiness

Direct effect of different types of EC law

Treaty provisions

Provisions of
regulations

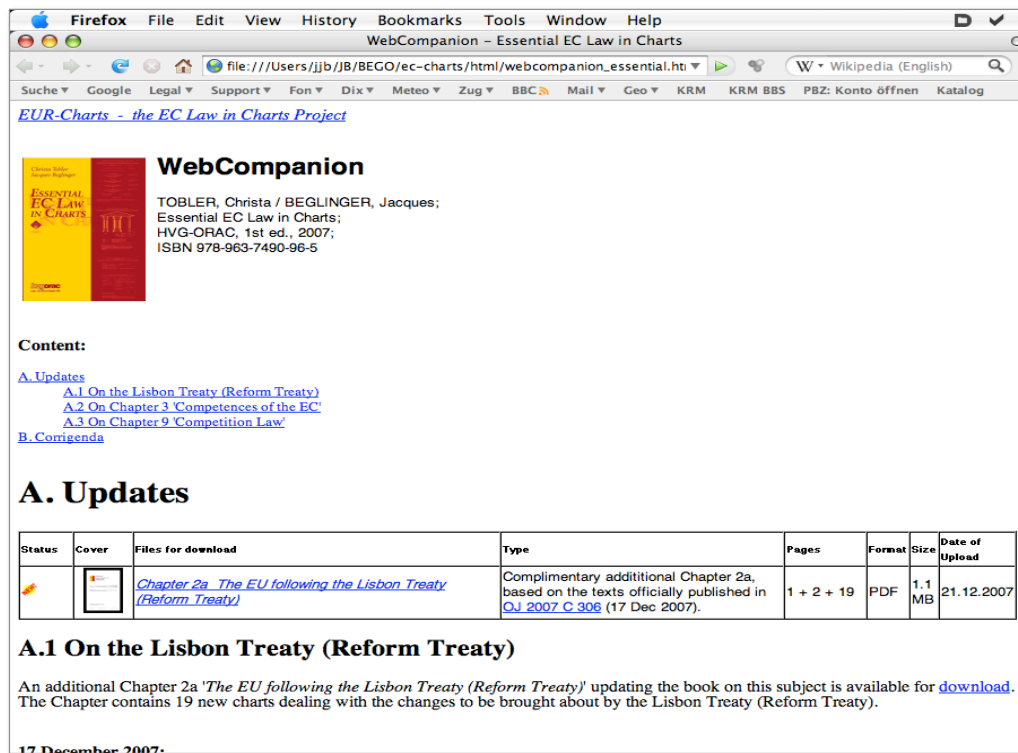
Provisions of
directives

Provisions of
decisions

No specific
conditions; directly
effective by their very
nature (immediately
part of the national
legal order,
Art. 249 EC; see
Chart 5/1).
Leonesio (1972)

III. Implementation

3. Importance of internet technology (2)





WebCompanion

TOBLER, Christa / BEGLINGER, Jacques;
Essential EC Law in Charts;
HVG-ORAC, 1st ed., 2007;
ISBN 978-963-7490-96-5

Content:

[A. Updates](#)
 [A.1 On the Lisbon Treaty \(Reform Treaty\)](#)
 [A.2 On Chapter 3 'Competences of the EC'](#)
 [A.3 On Chapter 9 'Competition Law'](#)
[B. Corrigenda](#)

A. Updates

Status	Cover	Files for download	Type	Pages	Format	Size	Date of Upload
		Chapter 2a - The EU following the Lisbon Treaty (Reform Treaty)	Complimentary additional Chapter 2a, based on the texts officially published in OJ 2007 C 306 (17 Dec 2007).	1 + 2 + 19	PDF	1.1 MB	21.12.2007

A.1 On the Lisbon Treaty (Reform Treaty)

An additional Chapter 2a 'The EU following the Lisbon Treaty (Reform Treaty)' updating the book on this subject is available for [download](#). The Chapter contains 19 new charts dealing with the changes to be brought about by the Lisbon Treaty (Reform Treaty).

17 December 2007:

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III. Implementation

3. Importance of internet technology (3)

- Central role of internet technology in relation to the practical implementation:
 - Use of advanced IT applications
 - Formats: EPS, PDF, MS Word
 - Platforms: Apple Macintosh OS X (development) / Windows (pre-print phase)
 - Programmes: OmniGraffle, OmniOutliner, MS Word, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe PageMaker
 - Cooperation with the publishing house
 - Exchange of data via a dedicated web platform (FTP upload / FTP download)
 - Challenge: publishing houses working in the field of law and not necessarily prepared for efficient handling of graphical content

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- In academic teaching:
 - Complementary teaching material (textbook + Charts)
 - For presentations (graphical elements in powerpoint presentations)
 - Illustration in publications
 - In work ordered by companies or institutions (e.g. thematic report for the European Commission)
- In legal practice:
 - Showing structures in an area of which the audience/partner with a legal background knows the basics
 - Brush up in continued professional education
 - Explanations to non-lawyers (clients, decision-makers)

- *"Using 'Essential EC Law in Charts' as a learning material proved to be essential for our students to understand the complex subject of EU law in an accessible and direct way. As a consequence, they were much better prepared in class and obtained higher marks."* - Dr. Andrea Ott, lecturer in European Law, Maastricht University, the Netherlands [Posted 22.10.2008]
- *"A very interesting book, entitled "Essential EC Law in Charts", especially for people inclined to "visual reading" is written by Tobler & Beglinger and available by HVG-ORAC Publishing House. Of particular interest is an electronic chapter on the Lisbon Treaty that is accesible in the website www.eur-charts.eu."* - Succeeding in the EU Examinations, Blog by Christos Bezirtzoglou, European Commission, Directorate-General for Trade.

- The Law Faculty of Leiden University continues using 'Essential EC Law in Charts' as study material its 2009/2010 Adv. LLM Programme in European and International Business Law. [Posted 17.7.2009]
- The Humanities Faculty of Leiden University chooses 'Essential EC Law in Charts' as compulsory study material for its 2009/2010 Master in European Studies Programme (combined with an early version of the forthcoming complementary publication 'EC Law in Text'). [Posted 25.5.2009]
- The Europa Institut of the University of Basel continues using 'Essential EC Law in Charts' as compulsory study material for its 2009/2010 European Studies courses. [17.7.2009]
- The Academy of European Law ERA in Trier (www.era.int) chooses 'Essential EC Law in Charts' as supporting material for some of its 2009 courses. [Posted 1.6.2009]
- The University of Saarbrücken chooses 'Essential EC Law in Charts' as compulsory study material for one of its 2009 International Business Management courses (combined with an early version of the forthcoming complementary publication 'EC Law in Text'). [Posted 20.5.2009]



WWW.LEIDENUNIV.NL, WWW.EUROPA.UNIBAS.CH, WWW.BEG.CH

www.eur-charts.eu



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Thank you for your attention!