



Simon Usherwood & John Pinder

THE EUROPEAN UNION

A Very Short Introduction

OXFORD

The European Union: A Very Short Introduction

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FOURTH EDITION

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Foreword

This fourth edition is a more sombre affair than its predecessors, for several reasons. Most obviously, the political and social developments since the previous edition have given much cause to question the rather optimistic take on affairs, most clearly seen in the UK's 2016 referendum decision to leave the EU. Coupled to this we see a continued rise in populism across the continent; the challenges posed by immigration flows; an unsteady Russia (and, more recently, US); and a Eurozone soon to mark a decade of sclerosis. As ever, this requires this slim volume to cover even more than before, something that has required some trimming back of previous content.

More personally, I have to mourn the passing of John Pinder in 2015, just one month before the British general election that was to lead to the UK's decision. John's career and experience is almost too vast to contemplate, from the Second World War to moving among the federalist community for many decades, as both scholar and advocate. He is sorely missed not only by myself, but by his many colleagues and friends, and I consider it a privilege to co-author possibly the last book to bear his name. And this remains very much John's book, reflecting still his view of a pragmatic movement in Europe towards a more federal model of governance. Bathetic though the events since John's death might appear, I hope that I can offer a balanced and fair view.

As always, my concern has been to present the ideas in a way that will help to provide a context for reasonable people, whatever their views, to evaluate the performance of the EU and judge in which direction it should go. And I have endeavoured to be scrupulous about the facts.

With all of this in mind, I owe thanks to even more people than before, including Angus Armstrong, Catherine Barnard, Iain Begg, Laura Chappell, Brendan Connelly, Helen Drake, Andrew Duff, Theofanis Exadaktylos, Roberta Guerrina, Nigel Haigh, Christopher Johnson, Anand Menon, Jörg Monar, Simon Nuttall, Richard Whitman, and Jon Worth. OUP have continued to combine their efficiency with a thoughtful support of the changing situation. If what follows does not please the reader, it is no fault of theirs.

June 2017
Simon Usherwood

Abbreviations

ACP	African, Caribbean, Pacific countries
AFSJ	Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Benelux	Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg
CAP	common agricultural policy
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CJHA	Cooperation in Justice and Home Affairs
Coreper	Committee of Permanent Representatives
CSDP	Common Security and Defence Policy
EAGGF	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
EC	European Community
ECB	European Central Bank
ECJ	European Court of Justice (formal title, Court of Justice)
Ecofin	Council of Economic and Finance Ministers
Ecosoc	Economic and Social Committee
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
ecu	European Currency Unit (forerunner of euro)
EDC	European Defence Community
EDF	European Development Fund
EEA	European Economic Area
EEC	European Economic Community
EFSF	European Financial Stability Fund
Efta	European Free Trade Association

EMS	European Monetary System
Emu	Economic and Monetary Union
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EPC	European Political Cooperation
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ERM	Exchange Rate Mechanism
ESCB	European System of Central Banks
ESDP	European Security and Defence Policy
ESF	European Social Fund
ESM	European Stability Mechanism
EU	European Union
Euratom	European Atomic Energy Community
Gatt	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (forerunner of WTO)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
GNP	Gross National Product
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
IGC	Intergovernmental Conference
MEP	member of the European Parliament
Nato	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NTBs	non-tariff barriers
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OMC	open method of coordination
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PHARE	Poland and Hungary: aid for economic reconstruction (extended to other Central and Eastern European countries)
QMV	qualified majority voting (in the Council of Ministers)
SEA	Single European Act
SFP	Single Farm Payment
TACIS	Technical Assistance to the CIS
TEC	Treaty establishing the European Community
TEU	Treaty on European Union

TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
TSCG	Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union
UN	United Nations
VAT	value-added tax
WEU	Western European Union
WTO	World Trade Organization

