#### PTIMIZE LAW REVISION



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# EUROPEAN UNION LAW

#### **Glenn Robinson**

Second Edition

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THE DETAILS

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## Optimize European Union Law

**Second Edition** 

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## Optimize European Union Law

**Second Edition** 

**Glenn Robinson** 



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## **Optimize — Your Blueprint for Exam Success**

#### Why Optimize?

In developing the 'Optimize' format, Routledge have spent a lot of time talking to law lecturers and examiners about assessment, teaching and learning, and exam preparation. The aim of our series is to help you make the most of your knowledge to gain good marks – to optimize your revision.

#### Students

Students told us that there was a huge amount to learn and that visual features such as diagrams, tables and flowcharts made the law easier to follow. Learning and remembering cases was an area of difficulty, as was applying these in problem questions. Revision guides could make this easier by presenting the law succinctly, showing concepts in a visual format and highlighting how important cases can be applied in assessment.

#### Lecturers

Lecturers agreed that visual features were effective to aid learning, but were concerned that students learned by rote when using revision guides. To succeed in assessment, they wanted to encourage them to get their teeth into arguments, to support their answers with authority and show they had truly understood the principles underlying their questions. In short, they wanted students to show that they understood how they were assessed on the law, rather than repeating the basic principles.

#### Assessment criteria

If you want to do well in exams, it's important to understand how you will be assessed. In order to get the best out of your exam or essay question, your first port of call should be to make yourself familiar with the marking criteria available from your law school; this will help you to identify and recognise the skills and knowledge you will need to succeed. Like course outlines, assessment criteria can differ from school to school, so if you can get hold of a copy of these criteria, this will be invaluable. To give you a clear idea of what these criteria look like, we've collated the most common terms from 64 marking schemes for core curriculum courses in the UK.

## reading Evidence Understanding Structure Critical Argument SApplication Originality Knowledge Presentation

Common Assessment Criteria, Routledge Subject Assessment Survey

#### Optimizing the law

The format of this 'Optimize Law' volume has been developed with these assessment criteria and the learning needs of students firmly in mind.

- Visual format: Our expert series advisors have brought a wealth of knowledge about visual learning to help us to develop the books' visual format.
- Tailored coverage: Each book is tailored to the needs of your core curriculum course and presents all commonly taught topics.
- Assessment led-revision: Our authors are experienced teachers with an interest in how students learn, and they have structured each chapter around revision objectives that relate to the criteria you will be assessed on.
- Assessment led-pedagogy: The 'Aim Higher', 'Common Pitfalls', 'Up for Debate' and 'Case Precedent' features used in these books are closely linked to common assessment criteria – showing you how to gain the best marks, avoid the worst pitfalls, apply the law and think critically about it.
- Putting it into practice: Each chapter presents example essays or problem questions and template answers to show you how to apply what you have learned.

Routledge and the 'Optimize' team wish you the very best of luck in your exams and essays!

#### **Preface**

For many students EU law can be a challenge; at times, the perceived legislative density of this essentially civil law subject can appear impenetrable. One of the aims of this text is to provide a way in to this subject by providing the key information in a series of manageable steps allowing the reader to walk through the most essential topics in a visual and stimulating way.

As most students will be familiar with the common law approach with the focus on case law precedent and the relative rigidity of the *stare decisis* doctrine, it is worth explaining at this point how EU law departs from the binding precedent template and to emphasise the importance of legislation in this system.

In one important way, EU law differs from UK law in that the use of precedent in the overwhelming majority of Member States within the union is persuasive; the judiciary are guided by previous cases, but are not necessarily bound to follow them. In this European approach, the case can be followed by the judge, but there is a greater freedom about the choices and pathways available in the judicial decision-making process.

Another notable difference between the two systems, the UK common law and the civil law prevalent in mainland Europe is the role of statutes or as they are more commonly termed within the EU Member States, codes. Whereas, in the UK, a statute is typically written in a detailed way with precise definitions where possible, in Europe and as we shall see in the EU, the legislation acts a starting point for the judiciary to interpret and apply in an arguably more dynamic way.

As I am sure you know, in the UK, the traditional approach to statutory interpretation has always been the literal rule, the so-called 'dictionary rule' which compels the judge to produce meanings for the words in the statute which are arguably limited to the obvious, literal meanings of the words. This can lead to absurdities where the clear literal meaning is out of date or does not produce the intended outcome which the statute was designed to achieve. Jurisprudence is littered with many such examples.

By way of contrast, the European approach has developed along teleological lines and has come to be known commonly in the UK as the 'purposive' rule. Using this

tool, the European judge will focus on the reason for the legislation. Broadly speaking, instead of asking the question: What does the statute say? A European judge will ask: What is the purpose of the code?

This approach throws up some interesting issues relating to the role of the judge in Europe and the way in which legislation is produced in the EU Member States and, by extension, the EU itself.

Starting with the first issue: the role of the judge. In the Court of Justice of the European Union, the judges will treat the legislation in front of them as a 'living document' to be interpreted and upgraded as social circumstances and legal necessity demand. For example, in 1957 in the original Treaty of Rome, sex discrimination was provided for in only a limited way. The original Article 119 (now Article 157 TFEU), merely stated that men and women should have equal pay.

This legal area developed greatly over the years through a progressive series of judgments which drove the law forward and expanded the notion of sex discrimination. Over this period, issues such as work of equal value, discrimination against pregnant women, equal rights for those who have changed gender or have been discriminated against on the grounds of their sexuality have all been raised and formed the basis for judgments in the European Court. Through this purposive approach, the original EU law has been re-interpreted in line with prevailing contemporary attitudes without the need to change the legislation at all.

However, this leads on to my next point, concerning the role of legislation. First, the law in the EU does clearly change over time. The cases outlined above in relation to sex discrimination have led to revisions in the EU through new Treaty articles, or the introduction of regulations or directives. This usually happens following a sequence of cases which have flagged up an area as especially complex or in need of clarification. Here, the legislation fulfils the roles of law reform and codification of the case law.

Second, in regard to legislation, it is worth noting that, in contrast to UK statutes, EU law is worded in a 'looser', less precise and less definitive manner. This allows the judiciary greater freedom in their approach and is typical of the European, civil law modus operandi. In this way, through a combination of the mode of language deployed, the persuasive use of precedent and the purposive interpretative approach, the law of the EU continues to develop and grow to meet the challenges of an ever-growing Union.

There is a further introductory point to make.

The law-making powers of the institution and the interpretative powers of the judiciary are bounded. This is in line with the approach prevalent in a common law system.

In the UK, common law is driven forward by the courts, hence the name, 'judge-made' law. It is possible for law to be taken in unexpected directions and, when there is no obvious precedent or it is clearly time for a change, it is now accepted that British judges enjoy some freedom in this area.

Arguably, this is not the case in the EU. The Treaties as outlined in the next chapter act as the starting point for the law to develop. This operates in two ways.

First, when new secondary legislation is planned, it must emerge from the foundation treaty: put simply, the EU could not produce legislation on free movement of goods unless a Treaty article on this area was already in existence.

Second, when deciding cases, the judges of the CJEU must produce judgments which sit within the overarching EU legal framework of Treaty Articles, and secondary legislation.

This means that the common law freedom arguably enjoyed by judges in the UK is not available to their colleagues in the EU. The closest topics to the common law approach are arguably those of direct effect, indirect effect and state liability where the judges creatively introduced these doctrines. However, in all three, justification for the judicial approach was found within the body of the treaties – again illustrating the bounded nature of the EU system.

In terms of learning the law contained in this text, there is a very useful approach which my students have found helpful in 'seeing' their way through.

When asked a legal question relating to UK law, the habitual answer of the student is to cite case law and precedent. This needs to be modified when studying EU law.

When you are asked a similar question on EU law – you should invariably start with the Treaty Article relating to that area. As you will note in the majority of the following chapters, each topic area cites the relevant Treaty Articles first. This is important as the primary legislation, the Article, will lay out the framework for the area and provide the requisite legal permission for secondary legislation to be introduced to broaden out the area and fill in any gaps which appear as the law is used and applied.

Once the relevant Article has been engaged, two routes of exploration open up. First, what are the key cases relating to that Article – how has the legal content of the Article been interpreted and applied in the courts? Each Article thus has associated case law whereby the judges tell us what the language of the Article means. As noted previously, these judgments are persuasive and can change over time.

Second, once you have an overview of the base Articles and their interpreting cases, you should turn to any secondary legislation which is relevant. This law develops, codifies and expands the law but can only be produced by the EU institutions if related to a Treaty Article. The format of this secondary legislation is typically as regulations or as directives.

You should then familiarise yourself with any cases which interpret and explain the provisions of this secondary legislation in the same way that you did for those cases relating to Articles above.

In this way, a 'paper trail' should develop which you can use to plot your way through each topic:

Article Regulation or Directive Supporting cases.

If you remember to do this and construct your study notes accordingly, it is hard to go wrong.

This latest edition of *Optimize European Union Law* has been updated to include:

- ❖ A new chapter on Freedom of Establishment and Services;
- new cases and legislation;
- enhanced parts on EU supremacy and the relationship between the EU and the UK.

#### **Guide to Using the Book and the Companion Website**

The Routledge 'Optimize' revision series is designed to provide students with a clear overview of the core topics in their course, and to contextualise this overview within a narrative that offers straightforward, practical advice relating to assessment.

#### **Revision objectives**

A brief introduction to the core themes and issues you will encounter in each chapter.

#### **Chapter Topic Maps**

Visually link all of the key topics in each chapter to tie together understanding of key issues.

#### Illustrative diagrams

A series of diagrams and tables are used to help facilitate the understanding of concepts and interrelationships within key topics.

#### **Up for Debate**

'Up for Debate' helps you to critique current law and reflect on how and in which direction it may develop in the future.

#### Case precedent boxes

A variety of landmark cases are highlighted in text boxes for ease of reference. The facts, principle and application for the case are presented to help students understand how these courses are used in legal problems.

#### **Aim Higher and Common Pitfalls**

These assessment-focused sections show students how to get the best marks, and avoid the most common mistakes.

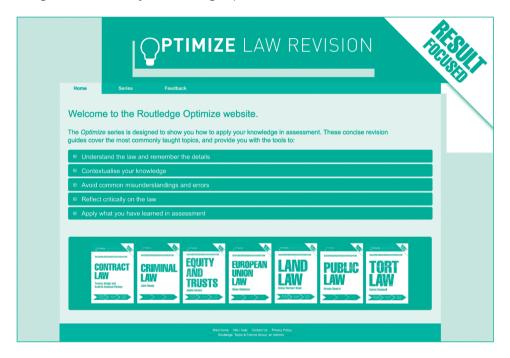
#### Table of key cases

Drawing together the key cases from each chapter.

#### **Companion Website**

#### www.routledge.com/cw/optimizelawrevision

Visit the Law Revision website to discover a comprehensive range of resources designed to enhance your learning experience.



#### **Resources for Optimize Law revision**

- Revision tips podcasts
- Topic overview podcasts
- Subject maps for each topic
- Downloadable versions of Chapter Maps and other diagrams
- Flashcard Glossary
- MCQ questions

#### **Table of Cases and Statutes**

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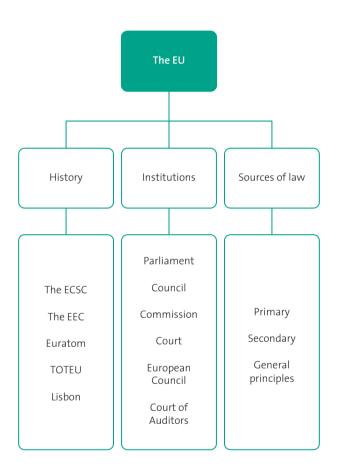
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## The EU: History, Institutions and Sources of Law

#### **Revision objectives**

#### • Do you understand the formation and driving principles behind the EU? **Understand** the law • Can you explain the significance of the different treaties? Remember the details • Do you understand how the institutions work together and their respective roles? Reflect critically on areas of debate • Can you see how this foundation chapter sets up the subsequent topics? **Contextualise** • Could you explain the development and legal standing of the EU? **Apply your** skills and knowledge

#### **Chapter Map**



#### History of the EU

#### Introduction

At the conclusion of the Second World War with Europe in a state of economic, political and moral turmoil, it was clear that a pathway was needed for reconstruction and cooperation between the European states. The first step was the Council of Europe formed in 1949 for closer political integration.

However in economic terms it was from the Schuman Plan that the current European Union developed.

The **Schuman Plan** envisaged the merging of production of what, at that time, were the two wartime necessities, coal and steel, to ensure these could not be used to promote war. With this in mind it proposed that the control of these sections of the economy was given over to an independent international authority, the High Authority, comprising individuals who were not Government representatives but who were given the power to fix prices and ensure compliance with competition rules.

The Schuman experiment in economic cooperation involved the removal of these vital wartime industries from the control of the national governments in the hope of providing a sounder foundation for peace and stability in Europe.

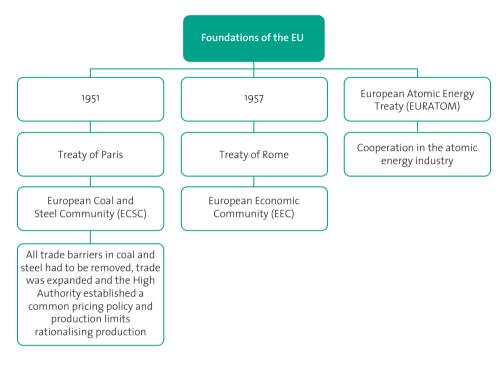
While the original plan (drafted by French statesman Jean Monnet and the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman) only envisaged France and Germany acceding to this Treaty, Schuman invited the rest of Western Europe to join.

In the resulting conference (1950) France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux nations produced the draft treaty (1951) that created the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).

Significantly, the Treaty aimed at a federal Europe.

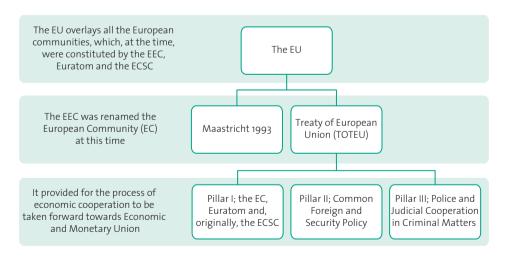
#### The beginning

Following these early steps, the EU was created as outlined below:



#### The next step

However, the ambitions of the Member States did not stop there and the EU really came into being following the Maastricht reforms and innovations in 1992.



These four treaties, the ECSC Treaty, the Euratom Treaty, the EC Treaty and the TOTEU, are the founding treaties of the EU.