

REVIEW
LAW OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:
A TEXTBOOK FOR MASTER STUDENTS
- UNIQUE EXAMPLE OF CROSS – BORDER
ACADEMIC COOPERATION IN EUROPE

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Joint textbook *Law of the European Union: a Textbook for Master Students* (eds. P. Biriukov and V. Tuliakov) is unique example of academic cooperation between Russian and Ukrainian academics in the field of EU law and EU integrations. Team of more than twenty authors took part in preparing this ambitious textbook.

In spite of its title, the textbook is much more than a textbook on EU law. It provides systematic and broad insight into the history of the EU, its objectives and principles, institutional framework, enhanced cooperation and membership matters. The textbook tackles relationship between EU law and international law, interaction of EU law and national laws of the Member States.

The textbook deals even with “non-traditional” textbook contents: Economic and Monetary Union of the EU, EU citizenship, Schengen law. Beside “constitutional” law dimension, significant attention has been devoted to four market freedoms and specific fields of the EU Internal Market: EU Market Law, EU Company Law and EU Competition Law.

Even a brief outlook at the contents of the textbook shows deep and comprehensive approach to the subject matter. In addition to its scientific and professional value, it has its educational and methodological value. Namely, in the preface of the textbook and after each chapter authors have clearly defined learning outcomes, i.e. what students should be able to know or be able to do after completing their studies based on this textbook. Such approach shows

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authors' deep understanding of contemporary HE standards – student centered approach. Such teaching approach and writing style help students to identify what do teachers expect from course attendees and what supposed to be key information and skills which students are expected to adopt after passing a course.

Beside afore-mentioned, introducing modern student-centered approach qualifies this textbook as didactical material not only at Russian and Ukrainian universities but world-wide. One suggestion in this regard would be to include a list of questions at the end of each chapter in some future edition. This would draw students' attention to key information which they should learn and be able to reproduce.

The authors consulted quite a number of national and international legal sources, literature and databases. In the epoch of overall digitalization of education, using national databases of EU Member States in order to get comparative insight into national legal systems is also worth mentioning.

In *Chapter 1* authors have given a chronological overview of fundamentals of the EU. This part provides a brief introduction to the key political steps in the process of euro-integration. Without going into details, in an informative, “journalistic” manner, a reader introduces her/himself with the key dates and years. Although title suggests that this part should be a short historical overview, more attention should have been given in this chapter to classical notions of EU law e.g. *passarelle clause* or Single European Act.

After the historical part, authors have concentrated on two treaties - Maastricht Treaty and Lisbon Treaty, followed by fundamental principles of the EU. This part is well-written, in particular, the part in which authors summarize main features of the Lisbon Treaty and key principles of EU law. Such approach enables students to easily memorize basic facts about the current treaty regime and basic principles, without having to go into details. The same is valid for enumeration and elaboration of EU competences.

On the other part, the part on enlargement processes seems too exhaustive and it would fit more in the historical overview.

In *Chapter 2* authors have given a nice overview of sources of EU law – primary, secondary and other sources. In addition to that, authors have given a brief overview of legislative procedures at the EU level. On the other hand, authors have again mentioned principles of EU law, latter already been mentioned in Chapter 1.2.

In Chapter 3 the authors have given an overview of institutional framework of the EU. This part provides a thorough insight into institutional framework

of the EU. Since *Chapter 2* deals with legal framework of the EU, and in this chapter authors have mentioned some of the institutions taking part in shaping EU's legislative landscape, it would seem more appropriate if the authors had put the institutional framework prior to the chapter dealing with legislative framework.

Chapter 4 deals with EU Citizenship, protection of human rights and Schengen law. At a first glance, devoting quite a number of pages to latter two fields of law might seem too much for standard EU law textbooks. Namely, the idea of the textbook is to provide solid basis for understanding general EU law. Nevertheless, bearing in mind the interest of Russians and Ukrainians to move freely and reside or even work in the EU, on-going political talks on abolition of visa-regimes, international mobility of Russian and Ukrainian partners participating in EU funded projects, trade cooperation among EU Member States, Russia and Ukraine, inserting those chapters seems logical and useful for the interest public in respective countries.

In *chapters 5, 6 and 7* the textbook covers several dynamic, vivid and at the same moment core areas of Internal Market Law – EU Market Law, EU Company Law and European Competition Law and Policy. These chapters are very well written both in terms of their substance and structure. After the introduction to the Internal Market and four fundamental freedoms, each freedom has been described and presented by referring to primary and secondary law, including relevant cases of the Court of Justice of the EU. When describing certain freedom, authors have put it into contrast to some other freedom, enabling students to identify main differences among fundamental freedoms (e.g. free movement of capital and freedom of establishment). Authors have tackled important problems of cross-border investments: free movement of capital and taxation, golden shares issue, third country dimension of capital movements, latter being particularly important for their home countries. These parts seem the most ambitious and in the same time most successful parts of the book. Provide very comprehensive insight into the Internal Market and cover even areas which other textbooks of similar kind do not cover – EMU, supranational company forms, complex competition law issues. Not to mention very welcomed comparative overview of national company laws of the Member States of the EU (with valuable references to national legal sources at one place). Only suggestion here would be to consider including one chapter devoted to consumer law and policy as one “special” field of EU Market Law.

In spite of some suggested structural changes mentioned above, that should be introduced in next edition(s) of this textbook, the overall impression is that this textbook provides a thorough, comprehensive, objective and up-to-date overview of EU law and policies. Thus, it can be recommended as mandatory

and/or further readings at Russian and Ukrainian universities. Its broad topical scope, student centered orientation, plain language, comparative outlook and wide coverage of specific topics puts this textbook at the same “level playing field” with best European textbooks in the field. To conclude, this book has also a symbolic value. Namely, it is the textbook of Russian and Ukrainian authors, written in English, in the framework of EU funded project, on EU law and EU integrations. It clearly shows how academic cooperation has no limits. That’s why this output stands for truly unique example of cross-border cooperation and clear evidence that EU values gather people even in the politically most challenging times for both Europe and its Eastern Neighborhood.