

Schulze / Zoll

European Contract Law

Third Edition



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by

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prepared by

Jonathon Watson

Fully revised Third Edition
2021



Published by

Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG, Waldseestraße 3–5, 76530 Baden-Baden, Germany,
email: vertrieb@nomos.de

Co-published by

Verlag C.H.Beck oHG, Wilhelmstraße 9, 80801 München, Germany,
email: bestellung@beck.de

and

Hart Publishing, Kemp House, Chawley Park, Cumnor Hill, Oxford, OX2 9PH, United Kingdom,
online at: www.hartpub.co.uk

Published in North America by Hart Publishing,
An Imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing 1385 Broadway, New York, NY 10018, USA

ISBN 978 3 8487 7764 8 (NOMOS Print)

ISBN 978 3 7489 2573 6 (NOMOS ePDF)

ISBN 978 3 406 76967 2 (C.H.BECK)

ISBN 978 1 5099 4180 3 (HART)

Third Edition 2021

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Foreword

Many fields of European contract law have changed considerably in recent years and indeed since the second edition of this book. The legislative responses to digitalization have resulted in several directives and regulations, changing the shape of the *acquis communautaire*: Digital Content Directive, Sale of Goods Directive, Modernization Directive, Platform Regulation, Portability Regulation, and the Geo-blocking Regulation. European contract law thus not only covers new topics but is also influenced by new concepts and principles (such as the role of data in contracting, the features of digital content, control of contract terms in B–B contracts). European case law surrounding contract law has also experienced considerable developments (especially in the field of unfair contract terms).

A new edition of ‘European Contract Law’ is therefore necessary due to the demand for structured insights into the extensive contract law *acquis* as well as the rapid and broad development of European contract law itself. Accordingly, it was necessary to revise and update the second edition (2018) to accurately present the structure of modern EU contract law, its law on unfair terms, performance obligations and the consequences of breaches thereof.

In light of the changes to contract law from, above all, the new challenges presented by digitization, this third edition strives to fulfil an aim already outlined in the foreword to the first edition: to allow legal scholars and practitioners, as well as law students, to be a part of the on-going development of European contract law as a core element of European private law. Accordingly, the following volume conveys fundamental information on the content, methods and objectives of European legislation in this field and explains the interaction between legislation, case law, and legal science in the origins and development of European contract law. In particular, it attempts to outline the qualities of this supranational law and its innovative features in comparison to traditional concepts in contract law. In so doing it serves as a guide to unfamiliar territory and promote an understanding of the characteristics of a new legal development.

The new edition is once more the product of numerous discussions between the authors. The chapters §§ 1; 3 II 1–6, III; 5; 6 I, IV, and 8 were written by Reiner Schulze, §§ 2, 3 I, II 7, 4, 6 II, III, and 7 by Fryderyk Zoll. The chapters authored by Fryderyk Zoll were part of the project ‘Made in Europe – European Legal Standards of Quality for Services on the Global Competitive Market’ and funded by the Narodowy Centrum Nauki (National Science Centre) on the basis of decision No. DEC-2012/04/A/HS5/00709.

The content and structure are based on the third German edition of ‘*Europäisches Vertragsrecht*’ (Nomos 2021) and take into account developments prior to 1 December 2020. The authors kindly thank Dr. Jonathon Watson, without whom this adapted English language version would not have been possible.

December 2020

Reiner Schulze/Fryderyk Zoll

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Abbreviations

AcP	Archiv für die civilistische Praxis
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AG	Advocate General
AGB	Allgemeine Geschäftsbedingungen; general terms and conditions
Art.	Article(s)
B-B	Business-to-Business
B-C	Business-to-Consumer
Bd.	Band; volume
BGH	Bundesgerichtshof; German Federal Court of Justice
BGHZ	Entscheidungen des Bundesgerichtshofs in Zivilsachen; decisions of the German Federal Court of Justice (Civil Law)
BT-Drucks.	Bundestagsdrucksache; Bundestag document
CESL	Common European Sales Law (Draft Annex I)
CESL-Reg	Common European Sales Law (Draft Regulation)
CIEU	Contratto e impresa/europa
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
CMLR	Common Market Law Review
Commentaries on European Contract Laws	Zimmermann/Jansen (eds), <i>Commentaries on European Contract Laws</i> (OUP 2018)
Contract II	Research Group on the Existing EC Private Law (Acquis Group), <i>Principles of the Existing EC Contract Law (Acquis Principles) – Contract II: General Provisions, Delivery of Goods, Package Travel and Payment Services</i> (Sellier 2009)
CRD	Consumer Rights Directive
CSD	Consumer Sales Directive
CUP	Cambridge University Press
DCD	Digital Content Directive
DCFR Full Edition	von Bar/Clive (eds), <i>Principles, Definitions and Model Rules of European Private Law: Draft Common Frame of Reference (DCFR) (Full Edition)</i> (Sellier 2009)
DNotZ	Deutsche Notar-Zeitschrift
EC	European Community
ECJ	European Court of Justice
ECLI	European Case Law Identifier
ECR	European Court Reports
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
ed(s)	Editor(s)

Abbreviations

edn	Edition
EEC	European Economic Community
e.g.	Exempli gratia; for example
ELI	European Law Institute
EP	European Parliament
ERCL	European Review of Contract Law
ERPL	European Review of Private Law
et al.	Et alia; and others
etc.	Et cetera; and the rest
et seq.	Et sequentia; and the following
EU	European Union
EuCML	Journal of European Consumer and Market Law
EUI	European University Institute
EULA	End User Licence Agreement
EU Sales Directive	Bianca/Grundmann (eds), <i>EU Sales Directive: Commentary</i> (Intersentia 2002)
EuZW	Europäische Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftsrecht
EWS	Europäisches Wirtschafts- und Steuerrecht
FEDSA	Federation of European Direct Selling Associations
German Civil Code	Dannemann/Schulze (eds), <i>German Civil Code – Commentary</i> (C.H. Beck 2020)
GPR	European Union Private Law Review
Handbuch Europarecht	Schulze/Janssen/Kadelbach (eds), <i>Europarecht – Handbuch für die deutsche Rechtspraxis</i> (4th edn, Nomos 2020)
HanseLR	Hanse Law Review
HK-BGB	Schulze et al., <i>Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch – Handkommentar</i> (9th edn, Nomos 2017)
HZ	Historische Zeitschrift
ibid.	Ibidem; in the same place
i.e.	Id est; that is
IMCO	Internal Market Committee (European Parliament)
IWRZ	Zeitschrift für Internationales Wirtschaftsrecht
JR	Juristische Rundschau
JURI	Legal Affairs Committee (European Parliament)
JZ	JuristenZeitung
LQR	Law Quarterly Review
M-EPLI	Maastricht Faculty of Law European Private Law Institute
MJ	Maastricht Journal of European and Comparative Law
MLR	Modern Law Review
MMR	Multimedia und Recht

Abbreviations

mn.	Margin number
MüKo BGB	<i>Münchener Kommentar zum Bürgerlichen Gesetzbuch: BGB</i> (C.H. Beck)
n	Footnote
No.	Number
NJW	Neue Juristische Wochenschrift
NVwZ	Neue Zeitschrift für Verwaltungsrecht
ODR	Online Dispute Resolution
OJ	Official Journal of the European Union
OUP	Oxford University Press
Oxf J Leg Stud	Oxford Journal of Legal Studies
Para.	Paragraph(s)
PTD	Package Travel Directive
QB	Queen's Bench Division
RabelsZ	Rabels Zeitschrift für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht
Reg	Regulation
RGZ	Entscheidungen des Reichsgerichts in Zivilsachen; Decisions of the Reich Court (Civil Law)
RIDC	Revue internationale de droit comparé
Riv.Dir.Civ.	Rivista di Diritto Civile
RTD Civ.	Revue Trimestrielle de Droit Civil
SGD	Sale of Goods Directive
Schlechtriem & Schwenzer CISG	Schwenzer (ed), <i>Schlechtriem & Schwenzer: Commentary on the UN Convention on the International Sale of Goods</i> (4th edn, OUP 2016)
Schmidt-Kessel CESL	Schmidt-Kessel (ed), <i>Der Entwurf für ein Gemeinsames Europäisches Kaufrecht – Kommentar</i> (Sellier 2014)
Schulze CESL	Schulze (ed), <i>Common European Sales Law – Commentary</i> (Nomos 2012)
SE	Societas Europaea
SI	Statutory Instrument
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
UTD	Unfair Terms Directive
VUWLR	Victoria University of Wellington Law Review
WM	Wertpapier-Mitteilungen
ZEuP	Zeitschrift für Europäisches Privatrecht
ZIP	Zeitschrift für Wirtschaftsrecht
ZJS	Zeitschrift für das Juristische Studium
ZRP	Zeitschrift für Rechtspolitik
ZVglRWiss	Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Rechtswissenschaft

Legislation and Other Sources

ABGB	Allgemeines bürgerliches Gesetzbuch; Austrian Civil Code
ACQP	Principles of the Existing EC Contract Law (Acquis Principles) European Research Group on Existing EC Private Law (Acquis Group) (ed), <i>Principles of the Existing EC Contract Law (Acquis Principles) Contract I</i> (Sellier 2007) and <i>Contract II</i> (Sellier 2009)
ADR Directive	Directive 2013/11/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2009/22/EC [2013] OJ L165/63
AGB-Gesetz 1976	Gesetz zur Regelung des Rechts der Allgemeinen Geschäftsbedingungen; German Act on Standard Business Terms
BGB	Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch; German Civil Code
BW	Nieuwe Burgerlijk Wetboek; Dutch Civil Code
CFR	Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union [2016] OJ C202/389
CISG	United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods
Coach Passenger Regulation	Regulation (EU) No 181/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 concerning the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 [2011] OJ L55/1
Commercial Agents Directive	Council Directive 86/653/EEC of 18 December 1986 on the coordination of the laws of the Member States relating to self-employed commercial agents [1986] OJ L382/17
Common European Sales Law	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Common European Sales Law COM(2011) 635 final.
Consumer Credit Directive	Directive 2008/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2008 on credit agreements for consumers and repealing Council Directive 87/102/EEC [2008] OJ L133/66
Consumer ODR Regulation	Regulation (EU) No 524/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on online dispute resolution for consumer disputes [2013] OJ L165/1

Legislation and Other Sources

Consumer Rights Directive; CRD	Directive 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on consumer rights, amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directive 1999/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directive 85/577/EEC and Directive 97/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council [2011] OJ L304/64
Consumer Sales Directive; CSD	Directive 1999/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 1999 on certain aspects of the sale of consumer goods and associated guarantees [1999] OJ L171/12
CoPECL	Common Principles of European Contract Law
Cultural Objects Directive	Directive 2014/60/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 (Recast) [2014] OJ L159/1
DCFR	Draft Common Frame of Reference Prepared by Study Group on a European Civil Code and the Research Group on EC Private Law (Acquis Group), <i>Principles, Definitions and Model Rules of European Private Law</i> (Sellier 2009)
Denied Boarding Regulation	Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights, and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 295/91 [2004] OJ L46/1
Digital Content Directive; DCD	Directive (EU) 2019/770 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on certain aspects concerning contracts for the supply of digital content and digital services [2019] OJ L136/1
Distance Marketing of Financial Services Directive	Directive 2002/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2002 concerning the distance marketing of consumer financial services and amending Council Directive 90/619/EC and Directives 97/7/EC and 98/27/EC [2002] OJ L271/16
Distance Selling Directive	Directive 97/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 1997 on the protection of consumers in respect of distance contracts [1997] OJ L144/19
Doorstep Selling Directive	Council Directive 85/577/EEC of 20 December 1985 to protect the consumer in respect of contracts negotiated away from business premises [1985] OJ L372/31
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights

Legislation and Other Sources

Ecodesign Directive	Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products [2009] OJ L285/10
E-Commerce Directive	Directive 2000/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2000 on certain legal aspects of information society services, in particular electronic commerce, in the Internal Market [2000] OJ L178/1
eDIAS Regulation	Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC [2014] OJ L257/73
EGBGB	Einführungsgesetz zum Bürgerlichen Gesetzbuche; Introductory Act to the German Civil Code
Employment Equality Directive	Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation [2000] OJ L303/16
GDPR	Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC [2016] OJ L119/1 (General Data Protection Regulation)
Gender Directive	Council Directive 2004/113/EC of 13 December 2004 implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services [2004] OJ L373/37
Geo-blocking Regulation	Regulation (EU) 2018/302 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 February 2018 on addressing unjustified geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market and amending Regulations (EC) No 2006/2004 and (EU) 2017/2394 and Directive 2009/22/EC [2018] OJ L60I/1
Insurance Distribution Directive	Directive (EU) 2016/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 January 2016 on insurance distribution [2016] OJ L26/19
Late Payment Directive	Directive 2011/7/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on combating late payment in commercial transactions [2011] OJ L48/1
Late Payment Directive (2000)	Directive 2000/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 June 2000 on combating late payment in commercial transactions [2000] OJ L156/17
Life Assurance Directive	Directive 2002/83/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 November 2002 concerning life assurance [2002] OJ L345/51

Legislation and Other Sources

Markets in Financial Instruments Directive; MiFID	Directive 2004/39/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on markets in financial instruments amending Council Directives 85/611/EEC and 93/6/EEC and Directive 2000/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directive 93/22/EEC [2002] OJ L145/1
Misleading and Comparative Advertising Directive	Directive 2006/114/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 concerning misleading and comparative advertising [2006] OJ L376/21
Modernization Directive	Directive (EU) 2019/2161 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directives 98/6/EC, 2005/29/EC and 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the better enforcement and modernisation of Union consumer protection rules [2019] OJ L328/7
Mortgage Credit Directive	Directive 2014/17/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 February 2014 on credit agreements for consumers relating to residential immovable property and amending Directives 2008/48/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 [2014] OJ L60/34
ODR Regulation	Regulation (EU) No 524/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on online dispute resolution for consumer disputes and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2009/22/EC [2013] OJ L163/1
OR	Obligationenrecht; Swiss Law of Obligations
Package Travel Directive; PTD	Directive (EU) 2015/2302 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on package travel and linked travel arrangements, amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directive 90/314/EEC [2015] OJ L326/1
Package Travel Directive (1990)	Council Directive 90/314/EEC of 13 June 1990 on package travel, package holidays and package tours [1990] OJ L158/59
Payment Services Directive	Directive 2007/64/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2007 on payment services in the internal market amending Directives 97/7/EC, 2002/65/EC, 2005/60/EC and 2006/48/EC and repealing Directive 97/5/EC [2007] OJ L187/5
PECL	Principles of European Contract Law Lando/Beale (eds), <i>Principles of European Contract Law – Parts I & II</i> (Kluwer 1999) and Lando et al. (eds), <i>Principles of European Contract Law – Part III</i> (Kluwer 2003)
PEL	Principles of European Law
PICC	UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts

Legislation and Other Sources

Platform Regulation	Regulation (EU) 2019/1150 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on promoting fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services [2019] OJ L186/57
Portability Regulation	Regulation (EU) 2017/1128 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market [2017] OJ L168/1
Racial Equality Directive	Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin [2000] OJ L180/22
Rail Passenger Regulation	Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations [2007] OJ L315/14
Rome I Regulation	Regulation (EC) No 593/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 on the law applicable to contractual obligations [2008] OJ L177/6
Sale of Goods Directive; SGD	Directive (EU) 2019/771 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on certain aspects concerning contracts for the sale of goods, amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2394 and Directive 2009/22/EC, and repealing Directive 1999/44/EC [2019] OJ L136/28
Services Directive	Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market [2006] OJ L376/36
Ship Passenger Regulation	Regulation (EU) No 1177/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 [2010] OJ L334/1
Solvency II Directive	Directive 2009/138/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the taking-up and pursuit of the business of Insurance and Reinsurance [2009] OJ L335/1
TEU	Treaty on the European Union [2016] OJ C202/13
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union [2016] OJ C202/47
Timeshare Directive	Directive 2008/122/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 January 2009 on the protection of consumers in respect of certain aspects of timeshare, long-term holiday product, resale and exchange contracts [2009] OJ L33/10

Legislation and Other Sources

Unfair Commercial Practices Directive; UCPD	Directive 2005/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2005 concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market and amending Council Directive 84/450/EEC, Directives 97/7/EC, 98/27/EC and 2002/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council [2009] OJ L149/22
Unfair Terms Directive; UTD	Council Directive 93/13/EEC of 5 April 1993 on unfair terms in consumer contracts [1993] OJ L95/29
UWG	Gesetz gegen den unlauteren Wettbewerb; German Unfair Competition Act

List of Cases

	Ch	mn.
European Union		
<i>Court of Justice</i>		
Joined cases C–43/59, 45/59 and 48/59 <i>Von Lachmüller</i> ECLI:EU:C:1960:37	3	3
C–6/64 <i>Costa/E.N.E.L.</i> ECLI:EU:1964:66	1	25
C–11/70 <i>Internationale Handelsgesellschaften</i> ECLI:EU:C:1970:114	1	25
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C–66/81 <i>Pommerehnke</i> ECLI:EU:C:1982:130	1	25
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