

International and European Business Law
by Schulze / Lehmann

International and European Labour Law

Article-by-Article Commentary

Ales / Bell / Deinert / Robin-Olivier



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edited by

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Preface

As time goes by ... it was in summer 2014 when the publisher discussed with us the idea of an international commentary on European labour law. This follows a tradition in continental systems, especially in Germany, where commentators all over the country analyse statutes, even those of minor importance. Therefore, the German publishing house Nomos took the initiative to commence this project, given that there are still relatively few commentaries on these important norms at international level.

We discussed the concept and we were quickly convinced that a commentary from a European perspective could provide additional value for any legal practitioner, as well as for legal scholars. The commentary should provide information in order to grant a specific European view, taking into account current legal debates with an EU law context. After a short period of discussion, we concluded that this book should not only provide observations on the EU legal framework. Instead, we wanted to include also international and regional labour law: specifically, the International Labour Organisation and the Council of Europe. This reflects our conviction that it is not sufficient to consider only EU legal instruments, notwithstanding their important status in many of our jurisdictions. By adopting a wider perspective, we can find both old and new tools that enrich our interpretation of domestic labour law. Moreover, looking beyond the EU provides us with external benchmarks against which to evaluate the sufficiency of current EU labour law.

This was a considerable challenge, given that there exists a large number of legal instruments and we had to engage many authors from different countries (which also means from different legal backgrounds). Understandably, it took some time to coordinate the work of all colleagues, but one year later the whole team was assembled. Over the next two years, the authors, editors, and publishers worked together closely in order to produce one of the largest existing commentaries on labour law.

Today, the reader holds a book in his or her hands that we hope will be helpful both for using the law in practice and for the academic study of law.

As editors, we are very grateful to the authors for their generous collaboration and patience. We are exceptionally thankful to the publishers for their willingness to undertake such an ambitious project and to persevere with this endeavour over several years. In particular, we owe a major debt of gratitude to Matthias Knopik and his colleagues for their constantly excellent support.

We have endeavoured to produce a high-quality manuscript, but we are conscious that given the large scale of this project, combined with the multitude of contributors, there is always scope for improvement. With a view to the enhancement of future editions of this text, the authors and editors welcome any feedback, which can be sent to olaf.deinert@jura.uni-goettingen.de.

Cassino, Dublin, Göttingen and Paris, June 2018

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CONTENTS

Preface	V
Authors	XV
Abbreviations	XXVII
General Introduction	XXXIII

PART I FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS

Fundamental Provisions: Introduction	1
--	---

CHAPTER I TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Article 8 TFEU	7
Article 9 TFEU	13
Article 10 TFEU	21
Article 19 TFEU	23
Article 21 TFEU	26
Article 45 TFEU	41
Article 46 TFEU	66
Article 47 TFEU	68
Article 48 TFEU	69
Article 56 TFEU	76
Article 57 TFEU	76
Article 58 TFEU	76
Article 59 TFEU	76
Article 60 TFEU	77
Article 61 TFEU	77
Article 62 TFEU	77
Pre. Articles 101–106 TFEU	94
Article 101 TFEU	97
Article 102 TFEU	107
Article 106 TFEU	111
Article 107 TFEU	117
Article 108 TFEU	125
Article 109 TFEU	126
Pre. Articles 145–150 TFEU	133
Article 145 TFEU	134
Article 146 TFEU	135
Article 147 TFEU	136
Article 148 TFEU	138
Article 149 TFEU	142
Article 150 TFEU	142
Article 151 TFEU	143
Article 152 TFEU	150
Article 153 TFEU	155
Article 154 TFEU	165
Article 155 TFEU	165
Article 157 TFEU	176
Article 174 TFEU	188
Article 175 TFEU	188

Contents

CHAPTER II
CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Article 5 CFREU	Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	195
Article 15 CFREU	Freedom to choose an occupation and right to engage in work	195
Article 20 CFREU	Equality before the law	200
Article 21 CFREU	Non-discrimination	203
Article 23 CFREU	Equality between women and men	209
Article 27 CFREU	Workers' right to information and consultation within the undertaking	214
Article 28 CFREU	Right of collective bargaining and action	218
Article 29 CFREU	Right of access to placement services	218
Article 30 CFREU	Protection in the event of unjustified dismissal	219
Article 31 CFREU	Fair and just working conditions	219
Article 32 CFREU	Prohibition of child labour and protection of young people at work	219
Article 33 CFREU	Family and professional life	225
Article 51 CFREU	Field of application	234
Article 52 CFREU	Scope and interpretation of rights and principles	239
Article 53 CFREU	Level of protection	244
Article 54 CFREU	Prohibition of abuse of rights	248

CHAPTER III
(REVISED) EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

Article 1 RESC	The right to work	253
Article 2 RESC	The right to just conditions of work	255
Article 3 RESC	The right to safe and healthy working conditions	264
Article 4 RESC	The right to a fair remuneration	272
Article 5 RESC	The right to organise	277
Article 6 RESC	The right to bargain collectively	286
Article 7 RESC	The right of children and young persons to protection	297
Article 8 RESC	The right of employed women to protection of maternity	304
Article 15 RESC	The right of persons with disabilities to independence, social integration and participation in the life of the community	307
Article 18 RESC	The right to engage in a gainful occupation in the territory of other Parties ..	310
Article 19 RESC	The right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance	313
Article 20 RESC	The right to equal opportunities and equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation without discrimination on the grounds of sex ..	316
Article 21 RESC	The right to information and consultation	319
Article 22 RESC	The right to take part in the determination and improvement of the working conditions and working environment	330
Article 24 RESC	The right to protection in cases of termination of employment	336
Article 25 RESC	The right of workers to the protection of their claims in the event of the insolvency of their employer	339
Article 26 RESC	The right to dignity at work	343
Article 27 RESC	The right of workers with family responsibilities to equal opportunities and equal treatment	346
Article 28 RESC	The right of workers' representatives to protection in the undertaking and facilities to be accorded to them	348
Article 29 RESC	The right to information and consultation in collective redundancy procedures	354

CHAPTER IV
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

The Declaration of Philadelphia (DoP)	361
ILO Convention 88 Employment Service Convention, 1948 (No. 88)	375
ILO Convention 122 Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)	383
ILO Convention 142 Human Resources Development Convention, 1975 (No. 142)	387
ILO Convention 144 Tripartite Consultations, 1976 (No. 144)	391
ILO Convention 150 Labour Administration Convention, 1978 (No.150)	403
ILO Convention 168 Employment Promotion and Protection against Unemployment Convention, 1988 (No. 168)	427

**PART 2
EQUALITY LAW**

Equality: Introduction 431

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL**

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Article 26 (ICCPR) 433
 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Articles 2 and 7 (ICESCR) 438
 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: Articles 1, 2 and 5 (ICERD) 444
 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: Articles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 11 (CEDAW) 449
 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) 455
 Article 14 ECHR Prohibition of discrimination 461

**CHAPTER II
EU LAW**

Directive 79/7/EEC on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security 466
 Directive 86/378/EEC on equal treatment in occupational social security and pension schemes .. 481
 Directive 2000/43/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin 495
 Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation 520
 Directive 2006/54/EC on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (recast) 547
 Directive 2010/41/EU on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women 586

**CHAPTER III
NON EU LAW**

ILO Convention 100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) 602
 ILO Convention 111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) 612
 ILO Convention 118 Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention, 1962 (No. 118) 630
 ILO Convention 159 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983 (No. 159) 635

**PART 3
WORKERS' MOBILITY**

Introduction 641

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL**

Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services 643
 Regulation (EC) No 593/2008 on the law applicable to contractual obligations (Rome I) – Articles 8 and 9 664
 Regulation (EC) No 864/2007 on the law applicable to non-contractual obligations (Rome II) .. 674
 Directive 2014/67/EU on the enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services 677

Contents

CHAPTER II EU LAW FOR EU NATIONALS

Directive 2004/38/EC	on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States	692
Directive 2005/36/EC	on the recognition of professional qualifications	713
Regulation (EU) 492/2011	on freedom of movement for workers within the Union	785
Directive 2014/54/EU	on measures facilitating the exercise of rights conferred on workers in the context of freedom of movement for workers	800

CHAPTER III EU LAW FOR NON EU NATIONALS

Introduction: Labour Rights of Third-Country National Workers in the European Union		806
Directive 2003/109/EC Article 11		809
Directive 2005/71/EC Article 12		814
Directive 2009/50/EC Article 14		816
Directive 2011/98/EU Article 12		819
Directive 2014/36/EU		823
Directive 2014/66/EU Article 18		827
Directive 2016/801/EU Article 22		829
Directive 2009/52/EC		832

CHAPTER IV NON EU LAW

ILO Convention 94	Labour Clauses (Public Contracts) Convention, 1949 (No. 94)	840
ILO Conventions 97 and 143	Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97) and Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143)	848

PART 4 NON-STANDARD WORK

Non-Standard Work: Introduction		868
---------------------------------	--	-----

CHAPTER I EU LAW

Directive 97/81/EC	concerning the Framework Agreement on part-time work	872
Directive 1999/70/EC	concerning the Framework Agreement on fixed-term work	882
Directive 2008/104/EC	on temporary agency work	894

CHAPTER II NON EU LAW

ILO Convention 175	Part-Time Work Convention, 1994 (No. 175)	906
ILO Convention 177	Home Work Convention, 1996 (No. 177)	909
ILO Convention 181	Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181)	911
ILO Convention 189	Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)	916

**PART 5
WORKING CONDITIONS**

Introduction: Working Conditions	934
--	-----

**CHAPTER I
EU LAW**

Article 8 CFREU	Protection of personal data	937
Article 30 CFREU	Protection in the event of unjustified dismissal	942
Directive 91/533/EEC	on an employer's obligation to inform employees of the conditions applicable to the contract or employment relationship	948
Regulation (EU) 2016/679	on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR)	958
Directive 98/59/EC	on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies	981
Directive 2001/23/EC	on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights	996
Directive 2008/94/EC	on the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer	1012
Directive 2010/18/EU	implementing the revised Framework Agreement on parental leave concluded by BUSINESSEUROPE, UEAPME, CEEP and ETUC	1026

**CHAPTER II
NON EU LAW**

ILO Convention 29	Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)	1049
ILO Convention 81	Labour Inspection Convention, 1949 (No. 81)	1073
ILO Convention 95	The Protection of Wages Convention, 1949 (No. 95)	1093
ILO Convention 129	The Labour Inspection Convention (Agriculture), 1969 (No. 129) ...	1106
ILO Convention 131	The Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970 (No. 131)	1120
ILO Convention 138	Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)	1124
ILO Convention 140	Paid Educational Leave Convention, 1974 (No 140)	1136
ILO Convention 156	Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156) ..	1142
ILO Convention 158	Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158)	1149
ILO Convention 182	Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)	1165
Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006)	1179	
Article 4 ECHR	Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	1200

**PART 6
HEALTH AND SAFETY LAW**

Introduction: Occupational Health and Safety	1203
--	------

**CHAPTER I
EU LAW**

Article 31 CFREU	Fair and just working conditions	1207
Directive 89/391/EEC	on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work	1210
Directive 91/383/EEC	supplementing the measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of workers with a fixed-duration employment relationship or a temporary employment relationship	1242
Directive 92/85/EEC	on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding	1252
Directive 94/33/EC	on the protection of young people at work	1268
Directive 2003/88/EC	concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time	1285

Contents

CHAPTER II NON EU WORK

ILO Convention 1	Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 1)	1321
ILO Convention 47	Forty-Hour Week Convention, 1935 (No. 47)	1332
ILO Convention 79	Night Work of Young Persons (Non-Industrial Occupations) Convention, 1946 (No. 79)	1336
ILO Convention 89	Night Work (Women) Convention (Revised) and P 89 – Protocol of 1990 to the Night Work (Women) Convention (Revised), 1948	1343
ILO Convention 90	Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention (Revised), 1948 (No. 90) (and ILO Convention 6 – Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 6))	1355
ILO Conventions 3, 103 and 183	on Maternity Protection	1365
ILO Convention 132	Holidays with Pay Convention (Revised), 1970 (No. 132)	1370
ILO Convention 153	Hours of Work and Rest Periods (Road Transport) Convention, 1979 (No. 153)	1381
ILO Convention 155	Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155)	1392
ILO Convention 161	Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No. 161)	1413
ILO Convention 171	Night Work Convention, 1990 (No. 171)	1428
ILO Convention 187	Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187)	1437

PART 7 COLLECTIVE ORGANIZATION AND ACTION

Introduction: Collective Organisation and Action	1454
--	------

CHAPTER I EU LAW

Article 28 CFREU	Right of collective bargaining and action	1457
------------------	---	------

CHAPTER II NON EU LAW

ILO Convention 87	Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), Convention 98 – Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98) and Convention 154 – Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981 (No. 154)	1492
Article 11 ECHR	Freedom of assembly and association	1513

PART 8 WORKERS' INVOLVEMENT

Introduction: Workers' Involvement	1534	
Directive 2001/86/EC	supplementing the Statute for a European company with regard to the involvement of employees	1535
Directive 2002/14/EC	establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community	1551
Directive 2003/72/EC	supplementing the Statute for a European Cooperative Society with regard to the involvement of employees	1567
Directive 2005/56/EC	on cross-border mergers of limited liability companies, Art 16 – Employee participation	1592
Directive 2009/38/EC	on the establishment of a European Works Council	1601

**PART 9
DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Introduction: Dispute Resolution	1636
Article 6 ECHR Right to a fair trial (extract)	1637
Regulation (EC) No 1215/2012 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (Brussels I Recast) ...	1643
Directive 2008/52/EC on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters .	1650
Index	1665

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