One risks to drown in the flood of ever more regulatory texts and judgments on European competition law. This second English language edition of the Sourcebook on Competition Law aims to bring some order to this subject.

The body of European competition law has grown so rapidly over the past decades that each effort to map this vast area of law necessarily entails choices. Several concise selections of regulatory texts are already on the market, as are casebooks, collections of references and complete multi-volume text collections. However, we believe that there is need for a guide which combines as much as possible the advantages of a practical one-volume overview of the law as it stands with the depth of more thorough collections. This combination should enable practitioners and academics quickly to find answers to a wide range of competition law issues, as well as to be put on the right track towards a more in-depth search.

With this purpose in mind this Sourcebook on Competition Law offers:

(a) an extensive full-text collection of European Union documents on competition law comprising core Articles of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, relevant Protocols, European Union secondary legislation, Commission notices and communications and the like;

(b) excerpts of relevant judgments of the General Court and the Court of Justice of the European Union;

(c) an extensive bibliography focusing on the years 2005-2011 with books, articles and overviews of case law in English, French, German, and Dutch; and

(d) notification forms brought together in a separate section of the book.

The book follows a structure which the reader may recognize from Commission documents, web sites and textbooks. It should allow the reader to distinguish easily between essential provisions and documents which rank lower in the hierarchy of norms. Competition law provisions which are primarily addressed to undertakings (restrictive practices, abuse of dominant position, merger control) are followed by provisions which primarily concern Member State behaviour (state aid, public undertakings and services of general economic interest). Within each of the five branches of competition law, the reader is first directed towards the most essential documents, and subsequently to implementing documents, first of a substantive and then of a procedural nature.

As we have aimed to combine thoroughness with practicability, the book cannot possibly be exhaustive. As editors we have had to select texts, and we fully realize that this implies a degree of subjectivity. This becomes particularly apparent in the overview of the Union courts’ case law, much too voluminous to reproduce in full text, and in the bibliography. Similarly, only the most important sectoral rules have been included, and texts of a purely institutional or programmatory nature, less vital in practice, have been left out.

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We welcome all suggestions for improvement:

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