

the discussion about a core Europe under the influence of a Franco-German alliance.

The title ends with a question mark. This does not mean that the author has any doubts about the configuration he favours: An EU of 15 members limited to the *acquis* of the internal market. This would be governed by existing hard EC rules and procedures. A hard core Europe run under intergovernmental procedures would rally the countries willing to make further progress in the other fields, under French and German leadership. The Benelux countries would have the function of a useful go-between among the central partners. The core EU would be constituted by the countries joining EMU by January 1, 1999. The countries of the core would have a blocking minority at the European Council when deciding according to Art.109(j) TEU on the entry into the 3rd stage of EMU. If the European Council would not take the right decision, the core countries would go it alone. Other partners would swallow this according to the "normative power of the factual". The author does not raise a question which comes to the mind of the reader: What would be the attraction of such a Union for its other Members?

H. Etienne

Van Houtte, Hans. *The Law of International Trade*. London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1995. Pp. xli, 414. Index. £100.

The distinction between public and private law retains, *a titre juste*, its attraction in European legal discourse despite the assaults from the other side of the Atlantic. But in some areas, even the most orthodox will accept that even as a practical matter it makes little sense. International Trade is one such area. For the purists this field covers the law of GATT and the WTO which governs and pits State against State and, at most, individuals against public authorities. There are many courses of International Trade in which discussion of a private contract of sale across national boundaries would be a UFO – something to be dealt with in International Business Transactions. The attractiveness of the van Houtte book is that it belongs to those books with a far more holistic view of the

subject and moves with ease from the substantive law of non-tariff restrictions, through international contracts of sale, through letters of credit. Procedurally, both private and public, domestic and international procedure and remedies are discussed. Because of its extensive scope packed into a relatively short format it should be regarded as that useful type of Handbook which introduces the field to newcomers and helps locate a problem in its correct contexts, after which more elaborate sources would have to be consulted. At £100 it is aimed at the practitioner. A student edition would be welcome.

JHHW

Korah, Valentine. *An Introductory Guide to EC Competition Law and Practice*. (5th ed.). London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1994. Pp. li, 316. Index. £19.95.

Valentine Korah's *EC Competition Law and Practice* has achieved a well deserved dominant position on the market. Its yellow covers should be recognized as a trademark worthy of protection. Fifth edition of an introductory classic.

JHHW

Steyger, Elies. *Europe and its Members. A Constitutional Approach*. Aldershot, UK/Brookfield, USA: Dartmouth Publishing Company, 1995. Pp. xi, 145. Index. \$59.95.

Europe and its Members: A Constitutional Approach has a most tantalizing set of chapter titles: The F Word; Grabbing for Power; Drawing the Battle Lines; Nailing the Caskets and Destiny Unknown. But behind most of them is a rather straightforward, often thin, legalistic description of the most well known elements of the Community legal order which have over the years been characterized as "constitutional" – direct effect, supremacy, the question of competences (a good chapter!) et cetera. Given its ambitions, the book is woefully under-researched, shorn of theory and evidently oblivious to a rich and growing literature which understands constitutionalism in its broad political, social and economic context. Even the finest baker

must allow his dough to rise. The author was in too great a rush to print what should have been a longer project of research and reflection. It is a pity because the mind behind this text is most creative and original as evidenced by, e.g., some soaring passages on the State, peoplehood, history and culture in the final chapter. It is always a pity to witness wasted talent.

JHHW

Pinder, John. *European Community: The Building of a Union* (2nd ed.). New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. Pp. x, 261. Index. \$16.95

There is no hiding the great sympathy of John Pinder to the process he describes. Sometimes such engagement is detrimental to scholarship. This is not the case here: Pinder's great achievement is to take a phenomenon (European Integration) and a polity (the Union) which seem to defy any coherent account and to construct a narrative in which all important elements cohere. That alternative views can exist, that some will regard critically what Pinder regards favourably, that some would have made different choices as to what should go into the narrative is evident. But this does not detract from the achievement. There is a bonus: Free of jargon, the book is a pleasure to read. A bargain.

JHHW

Corbett Richard, Francis Jacobs and Michael Shackleton. *The European Parliament* (3rd ed.). London: Cartermill International, 1995. Pp. xxiii, 337. Index. £35; \$75.

Edwards, Geoffrey, and David Spence (eds.). *The European Commission*. London: Longman Group, 1994. Pp. xiii, 302. Index. £35; \$75.

Westlake, Martin. *The Council of the European Union*. London: Cartermill International, 1995. Pp. xxv, 404. Index. £36; \$75.

Everyone has something to say about democracy or its absence in the European construct. Everyone has an opinion about the European Parliament. (Well, everyone

who would be reading this review). But the factual base on which much grandiose assessment of the European Parliament is conducted is often laughably thin. This book is not a law book – when will there be a new edition of Jacqué, Bieber, Constantinesco and Nickel? It is, instead, the best up-to-date account in English of the anatomy and physiognomy of the Parliament.

Almost the same can be said of the book on the Commission. It is a collection of essays and does not, thus, have quite the same structural coherence of Corbett and Co. But the editors imposed a rigid plan which has been followed. Each chapter has most useful annexes of primary sources – quite an advantage. The most valuable parts are the first chapters dealing with the internal operation of the Commission and a short but efficient essay on the Commission and lobbying. That is another hallmark of the volume: Brevity, coupled with extensive pointers for further reading. The more traditional chapters, Commission-Council; Commission-Parliament, Commission and the Union Foreign Policy apparatus are authoritative. Read this book coupled with the recent special edition of the *Revue Française de Science Politique* for an up-to-date description and conceptualization of the present day Commission.

The third in this brace deserves similar accolades. Westlake's book on the Council is not elegant. There is no overall thesis and it is somewhat bitty in content and presentation. But Westlake and his co-authors provide a hugely informative and detailed account of the work of the Council – both in its generic sense and also sectorially – something never before done with such breadth and depth in English. Here too there are annexes galore with primary sources often difficult to access. The level of detail is impressive though this will of course make the book date somewhat more rapidly.

All in all, these three books make an outstanding contribution and an altogether more detailed – insider – knowledge of the principal political institutions of the Union. Read them before you start theorizing.

Laursen, Finn (ed.). *The Political Economy of European Integration*. The Hague: