

Contents

Abbreviations	XV
Legislation and Other Sources	XIX
List of Cases	XXIII
Chapter 1 Foundations	1
I. Introduction	1
1. European contract law	1
2. Aim and structure of this book	2
3. Sources and literature	3
a) Sources	3
b) Literature	5
II. Contract Law as Part of European Private Law	5
1. Concept	5
a) Overview	5
b) Variations	7
2. Dualism of national and supranational law	10
a) Origins	10
b) Independence of the supranational legal order	11
c) Interdependency between national and supranational law ..	12
III. Contract Law in the Acquis Communautaire	13
1. Types of rules	13
2. Primary law	14
3. Directives	15
a) Development	15
b) Fragmentation	15
c) Minimum and full harmonization	16
4. Selected legislation and case law	18
a) Consumer protection	18
b) Small and medium-sized enterprises	20
c) E-Commerce	21
d) Payment services	21
e) Non-discrimination	21
f) Insurance contracts	22
g) Others	22

IV. Coherency of European Contract Law	24
1. Academic approaches	24
a) Principles of European Contract Law	24
b) Pavia Draft	24
c) General contract law and commercial law	25
d) Acquis Principles	25
2. Commission Action Plan and the Common Frame of Reference	27
a) 'Basic sources'	27
b) Draft Common Frame of Reference	28
3. The CESL as a codification	29
a) Concept	29
b) Preparation	30
c) Structure and scope of application	30
d) Codification character	31
e) Legislative process and withdrawal	32
4. Focus on the Digital Single Market	34
Chapter 2 Core Elements	39
I. Concept of Contract	39
1. Contract and juridical act	39
2. Contract as consensus ad idem?	46
a) Contract and inertia selling	47
b) Complex process of conclusion of contract	50
3. Contract and notice	52
II. Types of Contract in the Acquis Communautaire	55
1. Specific circumstances	55
a) Commercial agency	56
b) Timeshare	57
c) Consumer sales	58
d) Consumer credit	59
2. Increase in contract types in the acquis communautaire	60
a) Framework contract	60
b) Advisory services	61
c) Service contracts	61
d) Contract types under the CESL	65
e) Contracts for the Supply of Digital Content	66
III. Mixed Contracts	69
IV. Freedom of Contract	77
1. Overview	77
2. Non-mandatory and mandatory law	79
3. Limitations on contract drafting by controlling contract terms ..	82

4.	Good faith	84
5.	Non-discrimination	90
	a) Foundation	90
	b) Discrimination due to a personal characteristic	91
	c) Discrimination as an obstacle to the internal market	93
6.	Party status	95
V.	Consumers and other protected parties	96
1.	Overview	96
2.	Notion of the consumer in the <i>acquis communautaire</i>	98
3.	Other protected parties	102
Chapter 3	Conclusion and Content of Contracts	105
I.	Pre-contractual Duties	105
1.	Overview	105
2.	Comparative perspectives	113
3.	Pre-contractual duties and good faith in the <i>acquis communautaire</i>	114
4.	Pre-contractual duties and good faith in the CESL	115
5.	Pre-contractual duties and good faith in the DCFR	117
6.	Liability under the <i>Acquis Principles</i>	119
7.	Information duties in the <i>acquis communautaire</i>	120
8.	Between pre-contractual information duties and fair trading ..	122
9.	Standardized performance	122
10.	Pre-contractual information duties in the CESL	123
11.	Pre-contractual information duties in the <i>Acquis Principles</i> and DCFR	124
12.	Consequences of breach	124
II.	Conclusion of Contract	126
1.	Overview	126
	a) Introduction	126
	b) <i>Acquis communautaire</i>	126
	c) Academic and legislative drafts	128
2.	Agreement	130
	a) Principle	130
	b) Requirements	131
	c) Additional requirements?	133
3.	Modes	133
	a) Offer and acceptance	133
	b) Conclusion without offer and acceptance	138
	c) Conclusion via distance means of communication	140
4.	Pre-contractual public statements	142
	a) Party to the contract	142
	b) Third parties	145

5. Unilateral promises	147
a) Binding effect	147
b) Protecting the offeror	149
6. Inertia selling	149
a) Principle	149
b) Functions	150
c) Requirements	150
d) Legal effects	151
7. Defects in Consent	153
a) An alternative concept for protecting against flawed decisions?	153
b) Defects in consent in the <i>acquis communautaire</i>	155
c) Mistake and protection against unfair commercial practices	157
d) Defects in consent in the CESL	158
III. Right of Withdrawal	161
1. Overview	161
a) Introduction	161
b) Emergence of a general part	162
2. Functions	163
a) Protection	163
b) Creating confidence	164
c) Scope	165
3. Legal nature	166
a) Formative right	166
b) Distinction from revocation and termination rights	168
c) Mandatory nature	169
4. Exercise	170
a) Notice	170
b) Dispatch principle	171
c) Information on the right of withdrawal	172
5. Effect	173
a) Restitution	173
b) Termination	174
c) Obligations of the parties	175
d) Service contracts	177
e) Ancillary contracts	177
Chapter 4 Unfair Contract Terms	179
I. Overview	179
1. Unfair terms law as a core area of contract law	179
2. Unfair Terms Directive	180
a) Structure	180

b) Standard under the general clause	181
c) Relationship to German law	182
d) Approaches to further development	182
3. Unfair Terms in the Acquis Principles and DCFR	184
4. Unfair Terms in the CESL	184
II. Comparative Law Foundations	185
1. Development in German law	186
2. Control of terms under the French system	188
3. English and Scandinavian Systems	188
III. Unfair Terms Directive as a Compromise	189
IV. General Clause and the List of Unfair Terms	189
V. Late Payment Directive	201
VI. Acquis Principles	203
VII. DCFR	206
VIII. Reform	208
IX. The Exclusion of Unfair Terms from the Consumer Rights Directive	209
X. CESL	210
Chapter 5 Performance Obligations	213
I. Performance Obligations	213
1. Acquis communautaire	213
2. Proposed legislation	216
a) Typical performance obligations	216
b) Counter-performance	220
c) Further areas of regulation under the CESL-D	222
d) Emergence of a general conceptual basis	223
II. Forms of performance	224
1. Overview	224
2. Place and type of performance	224
3. Time	227
III. Risk	229
1. Basic features	229
2. Consumer contracts	230
3. Commercial contracts	231
IV. Features of long-term contracts	232
1. Overview	232
a) Types	232
b) Acquis communautaire	233
c) Supply of digital content	233
2. Performance and non-performance	235

3. Termination	235
Chapter 6 Consequences of Non-performance	241
I. Introduction	241
1. Innovative approaches in the <i>acquis communautaire</i>	241
2. System	243
a) <i>Acquis communautaire</i>	243
b) CESL	244
c) Services	246
II. Non-performance	247
1. Overview	247
2. Requirement in the <i>acquis communautaire</i>	248
3. Types of non-performance in the <i>acquis communautaire</i>	250
4. Requirement in the CESL	251
III. Right to Cure	254
1. <i>Acquis communautaire</i>	254
2. DCFR	256
3. CESL	256
IV. Remedies for the Injured Party	257
1. Performance	257
a) Overview	257
b) Requirements and exclusion	261
c) Subsequent performance	264
2. Withholding performance	268
a) Overview	268
b) Requirements	269
c) Consequence	269
3. Termination	270
a) Overview	270
b) Requirements	272
c) Notice of termination	277
d) Examination and notification duties	277
e) Consequences	278
4. Price reduction	279
a) Overview	279
b) Requirements and exclusion	280
c) Consequences	280
5. Damages and interest	281
a) Overview	281
b) Damages in the CESL	282
c) Interest	288
6. Restitution	290

Chapter 7	Preclusion and Prescription	295
I.	Acquis Communautaire	295
II.	Proposal for Comprehensive European Rules	298
III.	Conclusions	302
Chapter 8	Outlook	303
Index		307