		Acknowledgements	٧
		Contributors	vi
		Contents	ix
PART	Ι		
CHAPTER	Ι	Introduction: Political Accountability in a European	
		Perspective	
		Luc Verhey and Monica Claes	
	Ι	Introduction	3
	I.I	The Question of Political Accountability	3
	1.2	Democratic Deficit of the EU	3
	I.3	The EU is not a Nation State	4
	I.4	European Parliamentary Democracy	5
	1.5	Could the EU Learn From National Parliamentary Systems?	6
	1.6	Scope of the Research	7
	2	What is Political Accountability?	9
	2.I	Different Concepts	9
	2.2	Definition	10
	3	Research Framework	13
	3.I	General Approach	13
	3.2	Research Questions	14
	3.3	Structure	15
PART	II		
CHAPTER	2	Political Accountability in Belgium	
CHAPIEK	2	Ilse Van den Driessche	
		TIDE VAIL GETT D'ITEDUCTIE	
	I	Origin and Embedment of Political Accountability in the	
		Belgian Parliamentary System	27
	2	Terminology and Definition	28
	3	The Forum	29
	3.I	Kamer van Volksvertegenwoordigers as the Political Chamber	29
T. d	3.2.	Questions and Interpellations	30
	3.2.1	Questions	30
	3.2.2	Interpellations	31
	4	The Actors and the Scope of Political Accountability	32
	4.I	Accountability for Governmental Acts	32
	4.2	Reform of the Departmental Structure	33
	4.3	The Scope of the Accountability for Civil Servants	34
	4.4	Independent Agencies	35

	5	The Consequences	35
*	6	Other Forms of Accountability	37
	7	Conclusion	39
CHAPTER	3	Political Accountability in the Czech Republic	
		Mahulena Hofmann and Jiří Kopal	
	Ι	Introduction	43
	2	Accountability: General Aspects	43
	2.I	The Procedure of Appointment of Ministers	43
	2.2	The Concept of Political Accountability as a Constitutional	
		Aspect	44
	2.3	The Political and Legal Academic Debate and Other Relevant	
		Types of Accountability	44
	3	Accountability: The Actors	46
	3.I	Who Within the Government is Politically Accountable to the	
		National Parliament?	46
	3.2	To Whom is the Government or Actors Within the	
	,	Government Accountable?	46
	3.3	The Collective or Individual Form of the Accountability	48
	4	The Scope of Accountability	48
	4.I	The Accountability of the Government and/or Ministers for	
		Policy-making and for the Execution of Policy	48
	4.2	Political Advisers of the Ministers	49
	4.3	The Extent of the Accountability of Ministers for Functions	
		of Governmental Departments: The Powers to Give	
		Instructions to Civil Servants	50
	4.4	'Other Administrative Agencies'	50
	5	Activating Accountability: Parliamentary Control and	
		Transparency	51
	5.I	Means of Political and Budgetary Control at the Disposal of	
		Parliament	51
	5.I.I	The Right to Interpellate the Government	51
	5.1.2	The Approval of the State Budget	52
	5.1.3	The Right to Require Information for Carrying Out the	
		Duties Associated with Parliamentary Membership	53
	5.2	Obligations Resulting from Political Accountability	53
	5.2.1	The Duty to Attend Personally the Meeting of the Chamber	
		of Deputies	54
	5.2.2	The Duty to Respond Interpellations	54
	5.2.3	The Duty to Appear before the Committees and	
		Commissions of the Chamber of Deputies	55
	5.3	Legal Grounds for Refusing to Answer	55

	5.4	Right to Question Heads of Central Administrative Agencies and Civil Servants	56
		Commission of Inquiry – An Instrument for Activating	50
	5.5	Political Accountability?	F 7
	- 6	Transparency in the Chamber of Deputies and its Openness)/
	5.6	to the Public	۲Ω
			58
	0	Consequences Conclusion	59 60
	7	Conclusion	00
		Political Accountability in Denmark	
CHAPTER	4	Jørgen Albæk Jensen	
		Jørgen Arbæk jensen	
	_	Introduction to the Danish Political System	65
	1	Political and Legal Accountability	65
	2	Who is Accountable for What?	,
	3	Holding Formally Independent Authorities Accountable	70
	4	•	73
	5	Day to Day Parliamentary Control and Transparency	74 76
	6	Consequences Concluding Domarks	76
	7	Concluding Remarks	.77
		Dolitical Accountability in Evance	
CHAPTER	5	Political Accountability in France	
		Jacques Ziller	
	Т	Introduction	83
	2	The Notion of Political Accountability in French Law and	٠,
		Politics	84
	2	Accountability in the French Parliamentary System	85
	1	Accountability: The Actors	89
	5	The Scope of Accountability	91
	6	Parliament's Means of Political and Budgetary Control	93
	7	Supplementary Means to Ensure Rendering Account	95
	8	Discrepancies between Law and Practice of Accountability	96
		Diberepuliere between daw and ractice of riceomitability	90
CHAPTER	6	Political Accountability in Germany	
		Veith Mehde	
		V CIUIL IVICIIO	
	Т	Introduction: Specific Problems of Accountability in the	
		German Constitutional Structure	101
	2	A . 1 ·1·. ~ 1 A .	102
	3		106
	Δ.	The Scope of Accountability	107
	5	Activating Accountability: Parliamentary Control and	- /
		TT	109
	6	Consequences	113

CHAPTER	7	Political Accountability in Italy	
		Lorenza Violini, Stefania Ninatti and Giulia Tiberi	
	I	The Complex Configuration of Political Accountability:	
		The Italian Legal Perspective	123
	I.I	Preliminary Remarks: The Role of the Political Configuration	n
		and Dynamics in the Italian System of Government	123
	I.2	Setting the Scene: The Constitutional Framework	12!
	I.3	The Role of 'Indirizzo Politico' as a Means for Identifying	
		Individuals Subject to Political Accountability.	127
	I.4	Main Features and Limits of Political Accountability	129
	2	The Government-Parliament Circuit	132
	2.I	Political Accountability in the Italian System: Rules vs.	
		Practice	132
	2.2	Political Accountability in Italy in the Constitutional Design:	:
		A Bi-Directional Relationship Between the Government	
		and the Parliament	133
	2.3	The Question of Confidence and a Vote of No-Confidence:	
		Between Normative Elements and Constitutional Practice	13
	2.4	A Vote of No-Confidence for an Individual Minister	138
	2.5	The Problem of Transparency in Parliament and the	
		Influence of the Government in Parliament	139
	2.6	The Parliament's Instruments for Exercising Political	
		Control over the Government	140
	3	Beyond Political Accountability: The Separation Between	
		General Policy (indirizzo politico) and Administrative	
		Responsibilities (responsabilità dirigenziale) Within the	
		Public Adminstration; the Italian Independent	
		Regulatory Agencies	142
	3.I	The Separation Between General Policy (indirizzo politico)	
		and Administrative Responsibilities (responsabilità	
		dirigenziale) in the Public Management Reform	142
	3.2	The Institution of Independent Authorities in the Italian	
		Experience: A Brief Overview	14
	3.3	Independent Authorities in Italy: Their Establishment and	
		Responsibilities	14
	3.4	The Regulatory Powers of Independent Authorities: Rule	

Making, Administrative, Quasi-Judicial

Accountability and the Regulatory Authorities

147

3.5

CHAPTER	8	Political Accountability in the Netherlands	
		Hansko Broeksteeg	
	I	Introduction	157
	I.I	Government, Parliament and Parliamentary System	157
	I.2	A Short History of Political Accountability	159
	2	Accountability: The Actors	160
	2.I	Who is Accountable?	160
	2.I.I	Ministers	160
	2.I.2	Collective Political Accountability	161
	2.1.3	Secretaries of State	162
	2.2	And to Whom?	162
	3	The Object and Scope of Accountability	163
	3.I	Accountability and Competences: The Scope of Political	
212		Accountability	163
	3.2	Object	164
	3.2.I	The Minister	164
	3.2.2	The Civil Service	164
	3.2.2.I	Civil Servants, Fundamental Rights and Political	
		Accountability	164
	3.2.2.2	The Fiction of Political Accountability and the Doctrine of	
		Reproach	165
	3.2.2.3	Political Accountability by Civil Servants	166
	3.3	Agencies	167
	4	Obligations Resulting from Accountability	169
TELE	5	Other Forms of Public Accountability	169
	6	Activating Accountability: Parliamentary Control and the	
		Process of Rendering Account	171
	6.I	Parliamentary Control	171
	6.2	The Process of Rendering Account	172
	7	Consequences	173
	7.1	Sanctioning Stage	173
	7.2	Vote of No-confidence	173
	7.3	The Vote of No-confidence and the Upper House	175

Political Accountability in Poland CHAPTER 9 Ryszard Piotrowski

Summary and Conclusions

Ι	Constitutional Framework	183
2	The Notion of Political Accountability in Polish	
	Constitutional Law	182
3	Government and its Accountability	187
4	Accountability: The Government and its Obligations	194

175

	5	The Scope of Accountability	195
	6	Activating Accountability: Parliamentary Control and	
		Transparency	197
	7	Consequences	205
	8	In Conclusion	206
CHAPTER	IO	Political Accountability in Spain	
		Enoch Alberti	
		C C - 1 C I	
	Ι	Scope of the Study	213
	2	Political Accountability Within the General Framework	
		of the System of Parliamentary Government Established by	
		the Spanish Constitution of 1978	214
	2.I	Rationalised Parliamentarism and Government Stability	214
	2.2	The Central Role of the President of the Government	215
	2.3	The Power to Dissolve Parliament	216
	2.4	Criminal Accountability	216
	3	The Actors in Accountability: Accountable Persons and	
		Instances in Which Accountability May be Demanded	217
	3.I	The President and Joint Government Accountability	217
	3.2	Ministers	217
	3.3	Senior Officials and Civil Servants	217
	3.4	Directors of Independent Governmental Agencies	218
	3.5	The Congress of Deputies as an Instance of Demands for	
		Enforcement of Accountability	220
	4	The Scope of Accountability	221
	4.I	Subjective Scope	221
	4.2	Objective Scope	221
	5	Mechanisms of Accountability	222
	5.1	Motion of Censure	222
	5.2	Vote of Confidence	223
	5.3	Ordinary Mechanisms for Political Control	223
	5.4	Specific Procedures involving Control of Government	
		Action	225
	6	The Consequences of Enforcement of Accountability	225
CHAPTER	II	Political Accountability in Sweden	
		Joakim Nergelius	
	Ι	General Aspects and Constitutional Framework	229
	2	The Actors	232
	3	The Scope of Accountability	233
	4	Activating Accountability: Parliamentary Control and	
	•	Transparency	235

	5	Consequences	237
	6	A C 1 771 77 'D .	239
	7	A 1 ·	240
CHAPTER	12	Political Accountability in the United Kingdom	
CITTLE		Adam Tomkins	
	I	Introduction: British Parliamentary Government	245
	I.I	Composition and Structure of British Government	245
	2	Political Accountability and Parliament	248
	2.I	Collective Responsibility	248
	2.2	Individual Responsibility	251
)	2.2.I	Responsibility to Whom?	251
	2.2.2	Responsibility for What?	252
	2.2.3	Individual Responsibility and the Major	
			254
	2.2.4	Parliament's Response	258
	2.3	The Mechanisms of Parliamentary Accountability	261
	3	Political Accountability Outside Parliament	265
	4.	Conclusion: The Reputation and Future of Political	
	•	Accountability	267
	1		
PART	III		
CHAPTER	13	Political Accountability in the EU Member States:	
		Different Concepts and Practical Implications	
		Hansko Broeksteeg, Ilse Van den Driessche and Luc Verhey	
	Ι	Introduction	273
	2	Limitations on Comparative Research	273
	3	Concepts of Political Accountability	275
	3.I	Different Concepts	275
	3.2	The 'Parliament-oriented' Model of Political Accountability	276
	3.3	The 'Government-oriented' Model of Political Accountability	277
	3.4	Germany: A Mixed System	278
	4	The Scope of Political Accountability	279
	4.I	Governmental Powers	279
	4.2	Political Accountability for Policy-making	280
	5	Collective or Individual Accountability	281
	5.1	Introduction	281
	5.2	Primarily a Collective Accountability	281
	5.3	A Pivotal Role of the Prime Minister	282
	5.4	Primarily an Individual Accountability	283
	6	Political Accountability for the Civil Service	284

	6.1	Democratic Control on the Civil Service	284
	6.2	Limiting Accountability?	285
	6.3	Rendering Account by Civil Servants	286
	7	Political Accountability for Agencies	287
	7.1	Introduction	287
	7.2	No Accountability	287
	7.3	Full Accountability	288
	7.4	Limited Accountability	289
	7.5	Conclusion	290
	8	The Process of Rendering Account	290
	8.1	Obligations Following from Accountability	290
	8.2	Refusal to Answer	291
	9	Facing Consequences	292
	9.1	Positive and Negative Vote of Confidence	292
	9.2	Procedures	293
	9.3	The Role of the Prime Minister	294
	9.4	Summary	294
	IO	Concluding Remarks: A Ius Commune?	295
CHAPTER	14	Political Accountability in the European Union: Conceptual Analysis and Future Prospects Luc Verhey, Monica Claes and Hansko Broeksteeg	
	I	Introduction	301
	2	Political Accountability in the European Union:	
		A Brief Outline	301
	2.I	Towards a Parliamentary System?	301
	2.2	The Accountability of the EU Executive	304
	3	The Concept of Political Accountability	307
	3.I	Introduction	307
	3.2	Accountability: The Actors	308
	3.2.I	Who is Accountable and to Whom?	308
	3.2.2	Collective or Individual Accountability?	310
	3.2.3	The President of the Commission	311
	3.3	Accountable for What?	311
	3.3.1	Introduction	311
	3.3.2	Policy-making and Execution	312
	3.3.3	Accountability for Civil Servants	312
	3.3.4	Accountability for Agencies	314
	3.4	Mechanisms for Political Accountability	315
	3.4.1	Parliamentary Powers	315
	3.4.2	Transparency	316
	3.5	Consequences: Censure	317

4	Political Accountability in the European Union: What can	
	be Learned from the Member States?	319
4.I	Introduction	319
4.2	The Apparent Absence of a Clear 'Ius Commune'	320
4.3	The 'Parliament-oriented' Model of Political Accountability	321
4.4	The 'Government-oriented' Model of Political	
	Accountability	322
4.5	What the Traditional Concept of Political Accountability	
	Cannot Offer	324
4.6	What the Traditional Concept of Political Accountability	
	can Offer	326
4.7	Practical Guidelines on Political Accountability	327
4.7.I	A Clear Definition of Political Accountability	327
4.7.2	Evading Accountability	329
4.7.3	Collective Accountability	330
4.7.4	Resignation: Collective or Individual?	331
4.7.5	A Clear Chain of Command	332
4.7.6	Reducing Fragmentation of the Executive	333
4.7.7	Focusing on the Quality of the Account	335
5	Concluding Remarks	335