

# CONTENTS

<i>Summary of Contents</i> .....	v
<i>Contributors</i> .....	xvii
<i>Abbreviations</i> .....	xix

## Chapter 1. Introduction

Janneke GERARDS and Joseph FLEUREN .....	1
1. Evolutive interpretation, national courts and the legitimacy of the European Court of Human Rights .....	1
1.1. The constitutional competences of national courts to implement the Court's case-law .....	6
1.2. Main research questions .....	8
2. Approach and methodology .....	9
2.1. Overall approach .....	9
2.2. The comparative analysis: selection of states and approach .....	10
2.2.1. Selection of states .....	10
2.2.2. Approach of the comparative study .....	11
3. Outline of the book .....	11

## Chapter 2. The European Court of Human Rights and the national courts: giving shape to the notion of 'shared responsibility'

Janneke GERARDS .....	13
1. Introduction .....	13
2. The Court's <i>raison d'être</i> .....	15
2.1. Introduction .....	15
2.2. Functions and tasks of the Court .....	15
2.3. Subsidiarity, primarity and diversity .....	17
2.4. The 'push' and 'pull' factors in the Court's work .....	19
3. The shared responsibility of the Court and the national courts .....	21
3.1. Introduction .....	21
3.2. <i>Erga omnes</i> effect and <i>res interpretata</i> .....	21
3.3. The national courts' obligation to comply with the Convention and the Court's interpretations .....	23
3.4. The margin of appreciation doctrine and its (ir)relevance for national courts .....	27

3.4.1.	Development and function of the margin of appreciation doctrine for the Court .....	27
3.4.2.	Influence of the margin of appreciation doctrine for national decision making.....	31
3.5.	'Shared responsibility': the national courts and the ECtHR as partners in guaranteeing the Convention.....	32
4.	Giving shape to shared responsibility: principles and methods of interpretation.....	35
4.1.	Introduction.....	35
4.2.	Basics of Convention interpretation.....	36
4.2.1.	Evolutionary and consensus interpretation.....	36
4.2.2.	Practical and effective rights and meta-teleological interpretation.....	37
4.2.3.	Autonomous interpretation.....	39
4.3.	Strategic use of interpretative principles and methods of interpretation.....	40
4.4.	Criticism.....	41
4.4.1.	Meta-teleological interpretation and the risk of overreaching.....	41
4.4.2.	The disadvantages of consensus interpretation .....	44
4.4.3.	The problems of autonomous interpretation.....	45
4.5.	Enhancing shared responsibility?.....	46
4.5.1.	Introduction.....	46
4.5.2.	Lack of consensus: deliberate choice of a non-autonomous approach .....	47
4.5.3.	Dependency, or the 'in for a penny, in for a pound' approach .....	49
4.6.	Conclusion .....	51
5.	Procedural review and 'judicial minimalism' .....	52
5.1.	Introduction: substantive review and the need for a response .....	52
5.2.	Procedural review.....	52
5.2.1.	Advantages of the use of procedural review .....	52
5.2.2.	Going too far?.....	56
5.2.3.	The Court's response.....	59
5.2.4.	Conclusion .....	62
5.3.	Judicial minimalism: shallow, narrow and analogical reasoning... ..	62
5.3.1.	Introduction.....	62
5.3.2.	Shallow reasoning .....	63
5.3.3.	Narrow reasoning, analogical reasoning and general principles.....	66
5.3.4.	Disadvantages of judicial minimalism.....	69
5.4.	Conclusion .....	70

6.	Judicial dialogue .....	71
6.1.	Introduction.....	71
6.2.	Dialogue by means of judgments .....	73
6.2.1.	Some background: constitutional dialogue and dialogue between courts.....	73
6.2.2.	Dialogue at the ECtHR: response to criticism and concerns expressed in domestic judgments .....	75
6.2.3.	Approval of national responses to the Court's judgments ..	78
6.2.4.	Requirements for a successful dialogue by means of judgments .....	80
6.2.5.	Conclusion .....	82
6.3.	Formal and informal dialogue between judges; advisory opinions .....	82
6.3.1.	Exchange of information between courts .....	82
6.3.2.	Advisory opinions.....	84
6.4.	Conclusion .....	85
7.	Dialogue and national political and media criticism .....	86
8.	Summary and conclusions.....	88
	Annex: questions for the interviews at the European Court of Human Rights.....	90
<b>Chapter 3. Belgium</b>		
	Guan SCHAIKO, Paul LEMMENS and Koen LEMMENS .....	95
1.	Constitutional background .....	95
2.	Status of international law in domestic law .....	100
2.1.	Effects of treaty provisions and decisions of supranational bodies in the domestic legal order .....	100
2.2.	Primacy of international law over domestic law .....	104
3.	Judicial review .....	106
3.1.	Constitutional review.....	106
3.1.1.	<i>A priori</i> review by the Council of State .....	106
3.1.2.	<i>Ex post</i> constitutional review.....	107
3.1.2.1.	Legislative acts .....	107
3.1.2.2.	Administrative acts .....	109
3.2.	Review for conformity with international law .....	110
3.2.1.	Legislative acts .....	110
3.2.2.	Administrative acts.....	113
4.	Implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights by national courts .....	113
4.1.	The direct effect of the ECHR in the Belgian legal order .....	113
4.2.	The practice of the Belgian courts .....	116
4.2.1.	Practice with respect to legislative acts .....	116

4.2.2.	Practice with respect to administrative acts . . . . .	118
4.3.	Interpretation of domestic law in conformity with the Convention . . . . .	119
5.	The impact of ECtHR judgments on national judicial decision making .	123
5.1.	Incorporation of ECtHR case-law into domestic case-law . . . . .	123
5.2.	Response to judgments of the ECtHR against Belgium . . . . .	127
5.3.	Response to ECtHR's judgments against states other than Belgium . . . . .	129
5.4.	Horizontal application of the ECHR . . . . .	131
5.5.	Belgian courts and the margin of appreciation doctrine . . . . .	135
5.6.	Belgian courts and the use of general standards developed by the ECtHR . . . . .	137
5.7.	Belgian courts and some of the specific interpretative techniques adopted by the ECtHR . . . . .	138
6.	Legitimacy of the ECtHR as an issue in public debate? . . . . .	139
7.	Conclusion . . . . .	141
<b>Chapter 4. France</b>		
	Céline LAGEOT . . . . .	145
1.	Introduction: a brief characterisation of the French constitutional system . . . . .	145
1.1.	Separation and balance of powers . . . . .	145
1.2.	Unitariness and decentralisation . . . . .	147
1.3.	Organisation of the judicial power . . . . .	148
1.4.	Fundamental rights . . . . .	151
2.	Constitutional review in France: the role of the Constitutional Council . . . . .	152
3.	The status of international law and the ECHR in the French constitutional order . . . . .	155
3.1.	Monism and the binding character of international law . . . . .	155
3.2.	Status of international law in the hierarchy of norms . . . . .	156
3.3.	The direct effect of the ECHR and its substantive protocols . . . . .	157
4.	Judicial competences to review the compatibility of norms with international law . . . . .	158
4.1.	The development of decentralised 'conventionality' review . . . . .	158
4.2.	The role of the Constitutional Council: <i>a priori</i> review . . . . .	160
4.3.	The competence of the courts to give priority to international law . . . . .	161
5.	The application of ECHR provisions by French courts . . . . .	162
5.1.	Review of national legislation and decisions for compatibility with the ECHR . . . . .	163

5.2.	Construing national law in harmony with the ECHR . . . . .	165
5.2.1.	The Constitution as a vehicle to construe national law in harmony with the ECHR. . . . .	165
5.2.2.	EU law as a vehicle to construe national law in harmony with the ECHR. . . . .	165
5.3.	French courts and the application of the ECHR provisions in cases between private parties . . . . .	166
5.4.	Conclusion . . . . .	167
6.	Effects of the ECtHR case-law on national case-law, legislation and legal practice . . . . .	168
6.1.	Introduction. . . . .	168
6.2.	Referring to Strasbourg case-law and complying with the ECtHR's requirements . . . . .	169
6.3.	Responses to judgments against France . . . . .	170
6.3.1.	Changing interpretation and case-law. . . . .	170
6.3.2.	Liability claims. . . . .	173
6.3.3.	Reopening of criminal proceedings . . . . .	173
6.4.	Responses to ECtHR judgments against other states . . . . .	174
6.5.	Running ahead or staying in line? . . . . .	174
6.6.	Limitations and reluctance to follow the Strasbourg case-law . . . .	175
6.6.1.	Legislative discretion and deference. . . . .	176
6.6.2.	Interpretative reservations. . . . .	177
6.7.	Degree of influence: adoption of 'typical' ECtHR methods of review? . . . . .	178
6.8.	Conclusion . . . . .	181
7.	The role and position of the ECtHR debated in the country . . . . .	181
8.	Conclusion . . . . .	183

## Chapter 5. Germany

	Eckart KLEIN . . . . .	185
1.	The constitutional system . . . . .	185
1.1.	Basics. . . . .	185
1.2.	Federal organs . . . . .	185
1.3.	The Federation and the <i>Länder</i> . . . . .	186
1.4.	The court system . . . . .	186
1.5.	Constitutional rights of the individual . . . . .	187
1.6.	Constitutional openness to international law. . . . .	189
2.	Status of international law in domestic law . . . . .	189
2.1.	Position of international law in German law . . . . .	189
2.2.	Incorporation theories . . . . .	190
2.3.	EU law. . . . .	191
2.4.	Emanations of international organisations. . . . .	191

2.5.	International law in the domestic hierarchy of norms . . . . .	192
2.6.	Summary: a moderately dualist system. . . . .	193
3.	Judicial review . . . . .	193
3.1.	Constitutional review: the role of the Federal Constitutional Court . . . . .	193
3.2.	<i>Ex post</i> review as principle. . . . .	194
3.3.	Possible collisions between international and domestic law . . . . .	195
4.4.	Decisions of international organisations. . . . .	196
4.	Implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights by national courts . . . . .	196
4.1.	Direct applicability of Convention rights . . . . .	196
4.2.	Invocability of Convention rights. . . . .	198
4.3.	Harmonising interpretation of domestic law . . . . .	199
4.4.	Invalidation of domestic law conflicting with the Convention? . . . . .	202
5.	The impact of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights on national judicial decision making . . . . .	203
5.1.	Status of ECtHR judgments in national law . . . . .	203
5.2.	Reaction to judgments directed against Germany . . . . .	204
5.3.	Reactions to judgments not directed against Germany . . . . .	206
5.4.	Meaning of 'taking into account' of the ECtHR judgments. . . . .	206
5.5.	The problem of <i>Drittwirkung</i> . . . . .	208
5.6.	Margin of appreciation doctrine. . . . .	209
5.7.	Reflections of standards and methods used by the ECtHR in domestic law. . . . .	210
6.	Legitimacy debates: the ECtHR and the national courts . . . . .	211
6.1.	Discussion on the role of the ECtHR in Germany. . . . .	211
6.2.	Discussions <i>de lege ferenda</i> . . . . .	212
7.	Conclusions . . . . .	213
7.1.	Connection between the features of the constitutional system and the impact of the Convention and the ECtHR judgments . . . . .	213
7.2.	Primary role of constitutional basic rights in daily practice . . . . .	214
7.3.	Impact of the discussions about the impact of the ECtHR on national case-law. . . . .	215
7.4.	Relation between the debate on the ECtHR and the domestic implementation of international law . . . . .	216

## Chapter 6. The Netherlands

	Janneke GERARDS and Joseph FLEUREN . . . . .	217
1.	Introduction: constitutional background . . . . .	217
2.	Status of international law in domestic law . . . . .	220
2.1.	The constitutional system for giving effect to international law . . . . .	220
2.2.	Self-executing provisions . . . . .	223

2.3.	Judicial restraint .....	225
2.4.	Judicial techniques .....	227
2.5.	Horizontal effect .....	227
2.6.	International law which is not embodied in self-executing provisions .....	229
2.7.	EU law .....	230
3.	Judicial review .....	231
4.	Implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights by the Dutch courts .....	234
5.	The impact of the judgments of the ECtHR on national judicial decision making .....	236
5.1.	Introduction .....	236
5.2.	Consequences for the Dutch courts of a judgment against the Netherlands: re-opening and liability .....	237
5.3.	Complying with the judgments and decisions of the ECtHR .....	239
5.3.1.	Application of standards developed by the ECtHR .....	239
5.3.2.	Impact of the Court's standards – horizontal effect .....	241
5.4.	'Minimalist' readings of ECtHR precedents and translation of standards .....	242
5.5.	Taking account of the role of the judiciary and the limited judicial competences .....	244
5.5.1.	Refusing to set aside legislation and order changes of legislation .....	244
5.5.2.	The Dutch 'mirror principle' approach .....	245
5.5.3.	Varying the intensity of review: deference and judicial restraint .....	246
5.5.4.	The role of the margin of appreciation doctrine .....	249
5.6.	Conclusion .....	250
6.	Debates about the ECtHR and the national courts .....	251
6.1.	Development and locus of the Dutch debate on the role of the Court .....	251
6.2.	Effects of the debate .....	254
6.3.	Conclusion .....	256
7.	Conclusions .....	256

## Chapter 7. Sweden

	Iain CAMERON and Thomas BULL .....	261
1.	Introduction: constitutional background .....	261
1.1.	General constitutional structure .....	261
1.2.	Organisation of the judiciary .....	263
1.3.	Protection of fundamental rights .....	265

2.	The status of international law in domestic law . . . . .	266
3.	Constitutional review . . . . .	270
4.	Implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights by Swedish courts . . . . .	274
5.	The impact of the judgments of the ECtHR on national judicial decision making . . . . .	276
5.1.	The ECHR and judicial interpretative techniques . . . . .	276
5.2.	The practical impact of ECtHR case-law, particularly as regards constitutional review . . . . .	278
5.3.	Responses to breaches of the ECHR . . . . .	283
5.4.	Horizontal effects . . . . .	286
6.	Legitimacy debates: the ECtHR and the national courts . . . . .	287
6.1.	Some background . . . . .	287
6.2.	Public debate regarding the role of courts . . . . .	288
6.3.	More on the political and academic debate . . . . .	290
7.	Concluding remarks . . . . .	294
<b>Chapter 8. The United Kingdom</b>		
	Roger MASTERMAN . . . . .	297
1.	Introduction . . . . .	297
2.	The status of international law in the United Kingdom . . . . .	301
3.	Judicial review and the protection of human rights . . . . .	302
3.1.	Constitutional review – an alien concept . . . . .	302
3.2.	Civil liberties . . . . .	304
3.3.	Constitutional common law rights . . . . .	305
3.4.	Towards proto-constitutional review . . . . .	306
3.4.1.	The influence of EU law . . . . .	306
3.4.2.	The influence of the ECHR . . . . .	307
4.	The implementation of the ECHR by national courts . . . . .	308
4.1.	The Human Rights Act scheme . . . . .	308
4.2.	The range of protected rights . . . . .	310
4.3.	Legislative review under the Human Rights Act . . . . .	311
4.3.1.	Interpretation . . . . .	311
4.3.2.	Declarations of incompatibility . . . . .	313
4.4.	Horizontality . . . . .	315
4.5.	The extent of judicial enforcement powers . . . . .	317
5.	The impact of ECtHR decisions on judicial decision making . . . . .	318
5.1.	The relationships between national laws and the Convention rights . . . . .	318
5.2.	The ‘mirror’ principle . . . . .	322
5.3.	The margin of appreciation and deference . . . . .	324

6.	Legitimacy debates: the European Court of Human Rights and national authorities.....	327
7.	Conclusions .....	330
<b>Chapter 9. Comparative analysis</b>		
	Janneke GERARDS and Joseph FLEUREN .....	333
1.	Introduction.....	333
2.	The status of international law, in particular the ECHR, in the domestic legal orders .....	335
2.1.	Monist and dualist traditions .....	335
2.2.	A note on the law of the European Union.....	337
2.3.	The status of international law, in particular the ECHR, in the states under review .....	338
2.3.1.	Questions to be addressed .....	338
2.3.2.	Implementation of (the content of) international legal norms in the national legal order .....	339
2.3.2.1.	Customary international law .....	339
2.3.2.2.	Treaties.....	340
2.3.2.3.	Decisions of international organisations .....	341
2.3.3.	Direct effect .....	341
2.3.3.1.	The notion of direct effect or self-executing provisions of international law.....	341
2.3.3.2.	Direct effect of the ECHR.....	343
2.3.3.3.	Orders to legislate.....	344
2.3.3.4.	Self-executing provisions and horizontal effect... ..	345
2.3.4.	Hierarchy and competence to review national legislation for compatibility with international law.....	346
2.3.5.	Harmonious interpretation and constitutional review....	347
2.4.	Conclusion .....	348
3.	Dealing with the judgments and decisions of the Court .....	349
3.1.	Introduction.....	349
3.2.	The Court's requirements .....	350
3.2.1.	<i>Res interpretata</i> : the interpretative force of the Court's precedents.....	350
3.2.2.	The obligations imposed on the states by the Convention and the Court.....	351
3.2.3.	Consequences for the national courts .....	352
3.2.4.	Conclusion .....	355
3.3.	Synthesis of the findings of the national reports .....	355
3.3.1.	Introduction.....	355
3.3.2.	Formal powers to execute judgments against the State....	356

3.3.3.	Frequency of references to Strasbourg case-law; acceptance of <i>res interpretata</i> .....	357
3.3.4.	Adjusting national case-law because of ECtHR precedents.....	358
3.3.5.	'Positive deviations' and the application of the 'mirror principle' .....	360
3.3.6.	Adopting typical Convention doctrines .....	361
3.3.7.	Taking constitutional competences seriously: judicial restraint.....	363
3.3.8.	Conclusion .....	364
4.	Debate about the Court and its case-law.....	366
4.1.	Introduction.....	366
4.2.	Dealing with national criticism and national debates by the Court .....	366
4.3.	Criticism in the states.....	368
4.4.	Conclusion .....	369
5.	Conclusions .....	370
	<i>Appendix</i> .....	375