

Foreword

This book offers a collaborative account of the profound impact and enduring questions surrounding the historic event known as Brexit, i.e. the United Kingdom's decision to terminate its membership in the European Union in 2020. The book is a collection of thought-provoking contributions presented at the symposium titled »Consolidating Brexit: The future of EU/UK cooperation«, which took place at the University of Vienna in November 2022.

At the time of the symposium, six years had passed since UK's momentous referendum in 2016, and two and a half years since the UK officially departed the European Union in January 2020. Both from the distance in time and the emergence of post-Brexit normalcy, the symposium at that moment provided a fitting opportunity to reflect upon and analyze the events leading up to and following Brexit, along with the legal framework that emerged as a consequence. Perhaps even more importantly, the symposium sought to explore the future of EU-UK cooperation, both in legal and political terms.

The texts gathered in the present volume delve into these intricate alleys of inquiry. They offer evaluative criticism and serve as valuable contributions to our collective efforts to comprehend and navigate the profound shock of Brexit. Moreover, they present constructive and collaborative pathways forward for both the EU and the UK. They address a wide array of legal and political issues ranging from the structure and background of the withdrawal and cooperation agreements via political and legal repercussions for the EU internally, to the impact on free movement and establishment, dispute settlement, financial regulation and financial markets and, not least, constitutional problems involved.

The symposium brought together voices from the disciplines of comparative law, public international law, European law, and public law. Academics and practitioners alike thus joined forces in an interdisciplinary and comprehensive endeavor. The fruits of their labor are encapsulated within these pages, documenting discussions, debates and insights. While the analyses and proposals contained herein may shed light on the complex consequences of Brexit, one can also discern

a lingering unease and surreal sense permeating the lines—a reminder of the profound impact this decision continues to have.

As the symposium’s organizers, we extend our gratitude to the speakers who shared their expertise and insights, enriching the symposium with their diverse backgrounds and experiences. Their collective expertise and commitment to scholarship have made this volume possible. May it serve as a source of guidance and critical reflection on both sides of the English Channel.

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