

INTRODUCTION

Dear Reader,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to read the first edition of the *Hungarian Yearbook of International Law and European Law*. Although the community of Hungarian international lawyers and EU lawyers had always been very active, the publication of a yearbook has not materialized until today. This publication is especially meaningful, since it has been compiled in the common effort of all Hungarian law faculties' departments for international and European law. We are therefore proud to present to you this first edition, which aspires to reflect the work of the entire Hungarian community of lawyers dealing with these areas of law.

The elaboration of a Hungarian yearbook summarizing international law and European law developments is highly topical for several reasons. First, Hungary, as a member of the international community, is increasingly facing challenges posed by the rapid developments in international and EU law. Secondly, EU law and international law themselves are undergoing deep changes and facing great challenges, such as the interchange between these two fields of law, an increasing role of international law in national law-making as well the growing demand of the European Union towards its member states to adhere to the basic values of the Union. This is why we have chosen 'EU values' as the topical question of the first edition, drawing highly esteemed scholars of international law and European law into our debate, such as Catherine Barnard or Jan Klabbers. At the same time, the Yearbook also seeks to reflect upon the above-mentioned topical issues – from a Hungarian point of view.

In addition to current general legal developments, the Yearbook seeks to provide an analysis of the main legal questions Hungary has faced this year, with the hope that it will help shed light on the Hungarian legal approaches to these problems of European law and international law.

A further objective of the Yearbook is to provide an insight into Hungarian legislation and judicial and other practice, with a link to international law or European law. Writings of both academics and practitioners are included in order to give a full overview of how international and EU law are implemented and applied in Hungary. Various articles on Constitutional Court decisions and on implementation issues are therefore included in this edition.

The future editions of the Yearbook will follow the set-up reflected in the this first edition. Every year the Editorial Board will select a topical issue for deeper analysis (thematic part). The editors shall invite renowned academics and experts to elaborate on the given topic. The parts devoted to the developments in international and European law will be

INTRODUCTION

followed by an analysis of the given year's state practice. Finally, new publications by Hungarian authors of the given year will be introduced in the form of book reviews.

I sincerely hope the Yearbook will contribute to a more complete understanding of the Hungarian legal approaches and dilemmas in the fields of international and European law, and provide a basis for a more inclusive and intensive discussion in this field.

Marcel Szabó
Editor-in-Chief