

## Editorial

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The eight articles contained in this special issue constitute the updated and elaborated version of papers presented at the international conference ‘Public Policy, Good Morals and Social Justice in European Private Law’, held in Groningen on 26-27 October 2012.

This conference was the first act of a long-term comparative law project I initiated in 2012 in collaboration with the Groningen Centre for Law and Governance and the Netherlands Institute for Law and Governance. A brief description of the research topic of this project is contained in the first part of my short introductory article, which follows this Editorial and opens the present collection of papers.

More than twenty papers were presented orally at the above-mentioned conference. The papers were divided into two groups, corresponding to two large areas of law where public policy exceptions operate:

- (1) substantive private and commercial law; and
- (2) private international law.

A number of papers of the first group focussed on specific national legal systems, while other papers within the same group offered a supranational or comparative perspective.

Apart from my introductory piece, this special issue includes seven papers that address issues of substantive law in a supra-national or comparative perspective. The other conference papers, which focussed on either private international law or one specific national law, will be published in a forthcoming book.

The eight articles in this issue follow the same order in which the papers were presented orally at the Groningen conference. The second part of my introductory article contains a description of how the topic of the other seven papers published in this issue specifically relate to the general conference topic.

I would like to thank all speakers of the Groningen conference of 26-27 October 2012 not only for their very valuable contributions but also for their patience with regard to the inevitable length of the preparation of the two joint publications. And, last but not least, a warm ‘Thank you!’ to Ewoud Hondius, who kindly attended that conference and expressed his interest in having some of the papers published in a special issue of this journal.

*Aurelia Colombi Ciacchi*