

# Commentaries on European Contract Laws

For the past four decades, lawyers in Europe have been fascinated by the idea of creating (or: re-creating) a European private law. Contract law has, so far, been at the centre of attention. Various actors have shaped the development: the European legislature and the European Court of Justice as much as academic writers. National law reform has also contributed to a rapprochement of thinking patterns. One of the most interesting developments has been the creation of various sets of model rules, or restatements, of European contract law. It began with the elaboration of “Principles of European Contract Law” by the “Lando”-Commission, an academic initiative; and it has eventually led, in 2011, to the publication of a Proposal for a Regulation on a European Sales Law, i.e. the attempt to codify central parts of general contract law and sales law within the European Union. That Proposal has been withdrawn by the European Commission in late 2014. Thus, there is now some time for reflection. The present lecture explains the background for a research project that attempts to provide a synthesis of the development.

## Concise biography of Reinhard Zimmermann

Born 10 October 1952 in Hamburg; Study of law University of Hamburg; First (1976) and Second State Examinations (1979); Doctor of Laws (Hamburg, 1978); Chair of Roman and Comparative Law, University of Cape Town (1981-1988); Chair of Private Law, Roman Law and Comparative Legal History, University of Regensburg (1988-2018); Member and Director at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg (from 2002); Affiliate Professor, Bucerius Law School, Hamburg (from 2008); A.L. Goodhart Professor of Legal Science, University of Cambridge and Fellow of St. John’s College (1998/99); Honorary Professor, University of Edinburgh (from 2014); Visiting Professor at the Universities of Edinburgh, Stellenbosch, New Orleans, Chicago, Berkeley, Yale, Auckland, and Santiago de Chile; Visiting Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford.

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