

This volume constitutes an important and timely contribution to the question of whether, and how, the Union should take action in order to improve the protection of minority rights in Europe. Distinguished experts in the field have joined together to suggest answers at a moment when the enlargement of the Union offers a unique opportunity to shed new light on this issue—and on the related issue of the coordination between the policies of the Union and the protection of minorities by the Member States, the Council of Europe and the OSCE. The resulting collection of essays is truly compelling and is an indispensable tool to anyone interested in the protection of fundamental rights in the Union.

—Olivier De Schutter, Coordinator of the EU Network of Independent Experts in Fundamental Rights

A straightforward, reasoned and consistent treatment of minorities within the European Union context has been overdue for some time. This compilation of informed and constructive essays provides a welcome policy-oriented contribution to what is an ever more pressing subject. Recent and continuing EU enlargement has only underlined the importance of managing minority-related issues in a peaceful and productive manner. The Bolzano/Bozen Declaration that accompanies these essays shows the way forward. Interested policy and law-makers, and all those affected by these matters, will find here a useful, practical and achievable set of recommendations. Responsible politicians and officials should take these up in the new European public interest. If Europe is to continue to evolve and even to lead as a progressive open society composed of stable and prosperous democracies, it should follow the approach and program offered herein.

—John Packer, Former Director,
Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities



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Edited by

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