

the discussion about a core Europe under the influence of a Franco-German alliance.

The title ends with a question mark. This does not mean that the author has any doubts about the configuration he favours: An EU of 15 members limited to the *acquis* of the internal market. This would be governed by existing hard EC rules and procedures. A hard core Europe run under intergovernmental procedures would rally the countries willing to make further progress in the other fields, under French and German leadership. The Benelux countries would have the function of a useful go-between among the central partners. The core EU would be constituted by the countries joining EMU by January 1, 1999. The countries of the core would have a blocking minority at the European Council when deciding according to Art.109(j) TEU on the entry into the 3rd stage of EMU. If the European Council would not take the right decision, the core countries would go it alone. Other partners would swallow this according to the "normative power of the factual". The author does not raise a question which comes to the mind of the reader: What would be the attraction of such a Union for its other Members?

H. Etienne

Van Houtte, Hans. *The Law of International Trade*. London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1995. Pp. xli, 414. Index. £100.

The distinction between public and private law retains, *a titre juste*, its attraction in European legal discourse despite the assaults from the other side of the Atlantic. But in some areas, even the most orthodox will accept that even as a practical matter it makes little sense. International Trade is one such area. For the purists this field covers the law of GATT and the WTO which governs and pits State against State and, at most, individuals against public authorities. There are many courses of International Trade in which discussion of a private contract of sale across national boundaries would be a UFO – something to be dealt with in International Business Transactions. The attractiveness of the van Houtte book is that it belongs to those books with a far more holistic view of the

subject and moves with ease from the substantive law of non-tariff restrictions, through international contracts of sale, through letters of credit. Procedurally, both private and public, domestic and international procedure and remedies are discussed. Because of its extensive scope packed into a relatively short format it should be regarded as that useful type of Handbook which introduces the field to newcomers and helps locate a problem in its correct contexts, after which more elaborate sources would have to be consulted. At £100 it is aimed at the practitioner. A student edition would be welcome.

JHHW

Korah, Valentine. *An Introductory Guide to EC Competition Law and Practice*. (5th ed.). London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1994. Pp. li, 316. Index. £19.95.

Valentine Korah's *EC Competition Law and Practice* has achieved a well deserved dominant position on the market. Its yellow covers should be recognized as a trademark worthy of protection. Fifth edition of an introductory classic.

JHHW

Steyger, Elies. *Europe and its Members. A Constitutional Approach*. Aldershot, UK/Brookfield, USA: Dartmouth Publishing Company, 1995. Pp. xi, 145. Index. \$59.95.

Europe and its Members: A Constitutional Approach has a most tantalizing set of chapter titles: The F Word; Grabbing for Power; Drawing the Battle Lines; Nailing the Caskets and Destiny Unknown. But behind most of them is a rather straightforward, often thin, legalistic description of the most well known elements of the Community legal order which have over the years been characterized as "constitutional" – direct effect, supremacy, the question of competences (a good chapter!) et cetera. Given its ambitions, the book is woefully under-researched, shorn of theory and evidently oblivious to a rich and growing literature which understands constitutionalism in its broad political, social and economic context. Even the finest baker