Contents

page

Preface
by Terry Davis 9

Introduction 11

Part One – The "constitutional" status of the Council of Europe 15

Chapter 1: The Council of Europe – Basics 19

Aim 19

Responsibilities 20

Excluded – national defence 21

Membership of other international organisations – non-interference 22

Resources 22

Operational 22

Financial 23

Privileges and immunities 23

Official and working languages 24

Location 25

Chapter 2: "Constitutional" sources 27

The 1949 Statute 27

The Council's constitutional charter 27

Amendment or review of the Statute – the procedure 28

Failure of plan for general review of Statute 28

Statutory resolutions 30

Adoption procedure 30

Content 30

Statutory conventions 31

The statutory character of the European Convention on Human Rights 31

Should other Council treaties be "constitutionalised"? 32

Final declarations of summits 33

Chapter 3: Members and special status 35

Members 35

Conditions for membership 36
Being part of Europe 36
Accepting democratic values 37
Joining – the procedure 38
Withdrawal, suspension and expulsion 40
Voluntary withdrawal 40
Suspension and enforced withdrawal 40
Suspension for failure to respect financial obligations 44
Special status 44
Associate member status 45
Observer status 45
"Special guest" status 46
The special case of the European Union 46

Chapter 4: The Council of Europe's structure 47
The Council's statutory bodies: 48
• The Committee of Ministers 48
Membership 48
How the Committee operates 50
Powers 51
Relations with member States 54
Voting rules 55
• The Parliamentary Assembly 56
Membership 57
How the Assembly operates 61
Powers 65
Monitoring commitments 69
Voting rules 69
Relations between the Committee of Ministers and the Assembly 69
Liaison body: the Joint Committee 70
How the Assembly and Committee of Ministers interact 70
Secretariat and Secretary General 71
Appointment of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General 72
Powers 73

Specialised agencies 74
The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe 75
The Commissioner for Human Rights 76
The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) 76
Specialised bodies based on partial agreements 77
Conclusion 79

Part Two – Harmonising the laws of member States 81

Chapter 1: The Council of Europe as law-maker: the European Conventions 85
Treaties – the rules 86
Preparing a treaty – prelude and process 86
Adopting the text 87
Signing, accepting, approving or ratifying 89
Declarations and reservations 90
Interpretation 91
Revision – the procedure 93
Denunciation 93
Characteristics of treaties 94
Multilateral conventions 94
Increased number of conventions open to non-members 94
Participation by the European Community in Council of Europe Conventions 96
Classifying treaties 96
Classification by title – reasons against 96
Classification with reference to subject 99
Classification with reference to state obligations 101
Classification with reference to type of supervisory machinery 103
Conventions – do they work? 104

Chapter 2: Harmonising law – other approaches 107
Committee of Ministers' recommendations 107
Projected legislation – exchanging information and views at the drafting stage 108
"Soft law": the indirect impact of non-binding texts 108

Part Three – Council of Europe law in the European area 111

Chapter 1: Towards a common legal area 115

Geographical enlargement and new members' commitments 115
The search for a common legal area 115
Two yardsticks for membership 116
Monitoring commitments 118
Incorporation of Council of Europe conventions into domestic law..... 124
Council of Europe law as regional international law 126

Chapter 2: The Council of Europe and other international organisations 127
Council of Europe and European Union 127
Participation by the European Community in treaties negotiated at the Council of Europe 129
Institutional participation by the Union or the Community in the work of the Council of Europe 131
EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights 132
An associate partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union? 134
Relations with other international organisations 135
Co-operation and co-ordination agreements 135
Interparliamentary agreements 139
International organisations – their "complementary and mutually reinforcing role" 139

Conclusion: Towards a new shape for Europe 141

Appendices 143

Appendix I – Statute of the Council of Europe, statutory texts and resolutions 145
Appendix II – Member States of the Council of Europe – Dates of accession 175
Appendix III – Complete list of the Council of Europe's treaties 177
Appendix IV – List of partial agreements 185
Appendix V – List of agreements between the Council of Europe and other international organisations 187
Appendix VI – Model final clauses for conventions and agreements concluded within the Council of Europe 193
Appendix VII – Exchange of letters between the Council of Europe and the European Community 197
Appendix VIII – Council of Europe agreements with the UN 205
Appendix IX – Council of Europe agreements with the OSCE 213
Appendix X – Draft revised Statute 225

Bibliography 239

Index 241