

**Trade
Unions
in the**

**European
Union**

A Handbook

Edited by
Wolfgang Lecher



Trade Unions in the European Union
A Handbook



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Trade Unions in the European Union

A Handbook

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TRANSLATED BY
PETE BURGESS

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Translator's Preface

Trade Unions in the European Union first appeared as *Die Gewerkschaften in den 12 EG-Ländern* (Bund Verlag, Cologne, 1991), edited by Wolfgang Däubler and Wolfgang Lecher, as part of a series of handbooks on Europe published by the German Trades Union Confederation, the DGB. This translation is a revised and updated version of the original book. In particular, it reflects the changes in the legislative machinery of the European Union introduced by the Maastricht Treaty. The new arrangements are set out in Part III, and extracts from the Treaty have been included in the Appendix. The chapters on Germany and the United Kingdom were also substantially revised and expanded to meet the needs of the changed readership. The publishers are grateful to Paul Marginson (University of Warwick) for his comments on drafts of the UK chapters. Where more recent data was available, the tables which follow Part I were updated.

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Trade Unions in the European Union

Wolfgang Lecher is an industrial sociologist and researcher for the German TUC.

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Trade Unions in the European Union is a thorough and up-to-date guide to the different forms of employee representation in the countries of the European Union, as well as to the different legal, political and economic conditions in which trade unions operate. It also covers, in detail, the effects of EU legislation on workers' rights.

With the coming into effect of the Maastricht Treaty, there has begun a much more comprehensive process of integration than was first envisaged under the rubric of the 'Single Market'. This new economic environment has enormous implications for trade unions across Europe.

The essays in this collection contain comparative analysis, as well as a wealth of statistical and factual information, including over 40 tables and the relevant parts of the famous Social Chapter of the Maastricht Treaty. The book is thus the essential reference work in this area both for British trade unionists and for academics in industrial relations, labour law and human resource management.



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