

FOREWORD

It is a pleasure to introduce this Volume, which constitutes the proceedings of the first year of the Jean Monnet Module *Transnational Crime and EU Law: Towards Global Action against Cross-Border Threats to Common Security, Rule of Law, and Human Rights (EU-GLOBACT)* led by Anna Oriolo and her colleagues at the University of Salerno. This rich volume reflects the wide range of topics covered in the first year of the module. The volume is successful in providing a holistic, and at the same time critical and cutting-edge approach to the issue of the European Union responses to transnational crime. The volume consists of four parts analysing respectively: the emergence of the European Union as a global actor in the field of the fight against transnational crime; the EU judicial cooperation in the field of cross-border crimes; the environmental, sustainability and cultural heritage dimensions of EU responses to transnational crime; and the emergence of responses to transnational crime in the digital age. The latter two parts are particularly innovative, placing detailed emphasis on key emerging issues for the EU legislators and judiciary. Throughout this wide range of contributions, a number of common themes emerge. These include: the evolutive character of EU responses to transnational crime; the multi-level character of governance of transnational criminal law, with EU law interacting with both national and international legal orders; and the challenges that EU responses to transnational crime pose to the protection of fundamental rights and upholding the rule of law. The latter challenge becomes even more acute in our globalized digital age and raises the question of the extent to which the European Union is willing and able to uphold its internal values and benchmarks in its external action and emergence as a global actor in the fight against transnational crime. Contributions in this volume provide invaluable insights into academic and policy analyses on the topic, and the outcomes of the future years of the Jean Monnet programme are eagerly awaited.

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