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**PATAKYOVÁ T. Mária. *Konania pred  
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before Court of Justice of the European  
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Reviewer: Ondrej Hamulák\*

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The European Union is intertwined with comprehensive autonomous legal system which does not have any close parallel in any other forms of cooperation between states or other integration setups. EU law is able, independently on national law, to influence legal relations and fill this relations with new rights and obligations. In addition, EU law is able to enrich the national legal “universe” with new meanings and interpretations, and on top of all this supranational law behaves dominantly in the event of a tensions with conflicting national norms as it is endowed by the application primacy. Thanks to this special characteristics of the EU law, the European integration model could be so successful and create a de facto quasi-federal arrangement in the European area. For more than three decades, the understanding of the European model of cooperation has been defined by the doctrine of “Integration Through Law” (Cappelletti et al. 1985). Law is not only a simple product of integration, but also its tool and defining element. And the Court of Justice has become and continues to be the main “agent” of integration through the law. Thanks to creation and activities of this institution, the European Communities and subsequently the European Union received a proto-federal code in their genetic arrangement, as Eric Stein has pointed in many of his works.

It was thanks to the Court of Justice and its interpretive monopoly that EU law could become a real glue of building an ever closer union between the peoples of Europe (as stated in the Preamble to the Treaty on European Union). For these reasons, the Court of Justice should be considered as key and most important body within the institutional structure of the European Union, especially for lawyers (and law students). A good understanding of its role, functioning, competences and applied instruments is, in essence, a precursor to a correct

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\* Department of International and European Law, Faculty of Law, Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic, email: [ondrej.hamulak@upol.cz](mailto:ondrej.hamulak@upol.cz)

understanding of European integration and EU law. I must say that reviewed publication contributes to this goal, and I welcome its creation with gratitude. The Slovak (or Czech and Slovak) market of scholarly publications in the field of EU law contains several titles (Bobek/Komárek/Passer/Gillis, 2005; Stehlík 2006; Karzel, 2006; Mazák/Jánošíková 2008; Siman/Slaštan 2012; Sehnálek 2019), which deal with the issue of EU justice. However, these are either older publications or texts that are specifically addressed to legal practice or analysing only partial specific questions. Slovak and Czech market does not present an up-to-date and comprehensive textbook, which would offer clear and straightforward interpretation of the matters of the functioning of the Court of Justice in its current form. The book by M. T. Patakyova thus fills a gap in the market and has potential to contribute to the improvement of teaching and, consequently, knowledge in the field of EU law. As follows from the frequent requirements of legal practice addressing the scope and content of the EU law tuition at the law faculties in Slovakia and Czech Republic, it is precisely the question of the functioning and role of the Court of Justice (alongside the principles of application) that we should primarily focus on and emphasize.

The reviewed book addresses all of the essential issues related to the Court of Justice. It brings an insight into its structure, internal organization, personnel substrate, tasks and competencies. The majority of the text then analyses and explains the main types of proceedings before the Union courts, thus creating a comprehensive picture of the Court's work. The text does not avoid also the debated and controversial issues associated with the Court of Justice (e.g. the nature and binding force of its decisions, judicial activism etc.), but analyses and explain them in substance, with the obvious aim of providing a readers with comprehensive view on the importance and position of the Court of Justice.

The book – with the subtitle “textbook” – is primarily intended to be a didactic guide for the teaching and study of EU law. Creation of a accurate, materially correct and at the same time didactically effective study text is always a great challenge and a difficult task. The richness of covered information is very important, but even more important is the effect, the capacity of the text to improve the level of understanding of analysed issues, explain ambiguities and deepen knowledge of addresses. I am pleased to say that the reviewed book fulfils these preconditions. It deals with all the essential issues which lead to a correct understanding of the role and activities of the Court of Justice. The text is arranged very dynamically and the information is presented in a matter-of-fact style and understandable language. In a relatively small space, it solves all key issues and this is its added value and competitive advantage. As a basic textbook, it will find its application at all levels of higher education, and not only within the field of EU law (for its straightforwardness and at the same time material complexity,

it can certainly serve as enriching study material for example, for doctoral students in other areas of law). For the same reasons, this text may also attract the interest of representatives of legal practice, to whom it can provide answers to basic questions without the need to examine extensive commentaries or studies. As a dynamic, efficient and complex study text, it is worth to be recommended for all interested in EU law functioning and developments.