

M. CHAMON, *EU Agencies: Legal and Political Limits to the Transformation of the EU Administration*, Oxford Studies in European Law, Oxford University Press, UK, 2015, 389 pp., ISBN: 978-0-19-878448-7

Over the past two decades, the number of decentralized agencies under the EU has grown and the scope of the power of these agencies has widened. This has become a major issue for the EU, as it raises the question of when a decentralized agency of the EU is empowered to act and in what capacity. As part of the Oxford Studies in European Law Series, this book attempts to answer the question of "What are the political and legal limits of EU agencification?"

In his book, Merijn Chamon provides the first comprehensive overview of this issue. Focusing mostly on EU laws, Chamon first examines the framework under which these organizations are created and the different tasks that such organizations are able to carry out. The chapters that follow go in depth on the political and legal limits of these agencies. Case law and EU Legislation are heavily employed here to establish what these limits are. The last chapter takes a comparative approach by looking at the cases of independent agencies in Germany and the USA and how the respective nations' courts and legislative bodies have approached them. The book concludes by presenting overall conclusions and a proposal for a legal basis in treaties for these independent organizations.

K. Piepenbrink

A. DI AMATO, *Criminal Law in Italy*, 2nd Edition, Wolters Kluwer Law International, The Netherlands, 2013, 238 pp., ISBN: 978-90-411-5170-4

In *Criminal Law in Italy*, Astolfo Di Amato provides a thorough analysis of the country's justice system. He articulates the coverage of criminal procedure by focusing on the organization of investigations and legal remedies. Moreover, Di Amato supports the notion that the Italian system is about value choices by illustrating the various technicalities in Italian law.