

Contents

Diagrams and tables	7
Abbreviations	8
Preface	9
1 Why does the EU need a fundamental reform of its treaties?	12
2 The history of the European Union	18
2.1 The Treaties of Rome and northern enlargement ...	23
2.2 Pressure for reform in the 1980s and southern enlargement	25
2.3 Marathon-style reforms of the European Treaties in the 1990s	30
2.4 XXL Europe	35
3 The path leading to the Constitution	39
4 The genesis of the Constitution	42
4.1 The European Convention	42
4.2 Treaty reform with EU citizen participation	42
4.3 Chronology of the constitutional process	44
5 The structure of the Constitution	49
6 EU competences: Who does what?	55
6.1 Exclusive EU competence	56
6.2 Areas with shared competence	56

6.3	Supporting, coordinating and complementary action	57
6.4	Coordination of economic and employment policies	59
6.5	Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)	59
7	The EU institutions and their function in the Constitution	60
7.1	The European Parliament	61
7.2	The European Council	65
7.3	The President of the European Council	66
7.4	The Council of Ministers	68
7.5	The European Commission	71
7.6	The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs	74
7.7	The European External Action Service	76
8	Decision-making processes in the EU Constitution	77
8.1	Double majority	77
8.2	The extension of majority decisions	78
8.3	The co-decision procedure in the “ordinary legislative procedure”	79
8.4	Decrease in the number of legal instruments and terminological simplification	81
8.5	Early warning mechanism: more rights for the national parliaments	83
8.6	Citizens’ initiative	84
8.7	The Constitutional Treaty creates greater opportunities for a “Europe of different speeds”	84
9	The process of ratifying the EU Constitution	89
9.1	The current state of the ratification process	89
9.2	Overcoming the ratification crisis	91
10	Outlook: the Constitution’s future	98
Appendix	100
	The Constitution from A to Z	100
	Picture credits	107

Diagrams and tables

The history of the European Community/ European Union	20
Members of the European Union 1957–2004	26
Structure and goals of the European Union	33
Members of the European Union after 2004	36
The Composition of the EU Convention	43
Chronology of the constitutional process	46
The European Charter of Fundamental Rights— Part II of the EU Constitution	50
The basic structure of the EU Constitution	53
The categories of competence in the Constitution	57
General evaluation of the European Constitution	58
The new face of the European Union	62
The European Parliament	64
The European Council and the President of the European Council	67
The Council of Ministers of the European Union	69
The European Commission	72
The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs	75
Ordinary legislative procedure	80
The legal instruments of the European Union	82
More rights for national parliaments— Early warning mechanism	83
Various forms of differentiated integration	85
Ratification of the Constitution in the 27 member states of the European Union	94