In times of rapid change and unpredictability the European Union’s role in the world is sorely tested. How successfully the EU meets challenges such as war, terrorism and climate change, and how effectively the Union taps into opportunities like mobility and technological progress depends to a great extent on the ability of the EU’s institutions and member states to adopt and implement a comprehensive and integrated approach to external action.

This Research Handbook examines the law, policy and practice of the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy, including the Common Security and Defence, and gauges its interactions with the other external policies of the Union (including trade, development, energy), as well as the evolving political and economic challenges that face the European Union.

‘Under the Treaty of Lisbon, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) occupies a distinct place in EU external relations. This Research Handbook will provide an indispensable tool for understanding the specific features of the CFSP as well as the way it interacts with the non-CFSP part of EU external relations law. We are faced with a comprehensive, well-structured and highly informative collection of chapters by a group of top experts on EU law and external relations law in particular.’

– Allan Rosas, Judge at the European Court of Justice, Luxembourg

‘A must-read for everyone who is interested in understanding how the basic texts in the EU Treaties, as modified by the Lisbon Treaty, and their implementation in the recent years, may (or not) help the EU to become a stronger actor on the international scene.’

– Jean-Claude Piris, Former DG of the Legal Service of the Council of the EU, France