Collective action by firms is a central societal phenomenon, whereby firms set up specific devices, referred to by the authors as ‘Firms’ Collective Action Devices’ (FCADs). This timely book shows how the phenomenon has been studied in a variety of academic disciplines, including history, political science, economics, sociology, management and organization theory, and how FCADs are used in lobbying, and to tackle issues such as those related to the environment and human rights. The book uses the concepts of meta-organization and heterarchy to give a fascinating overview of firms’ collective action, investigate some little-known aspects of the phenomenon, and examine the impact of FCADs on the economy and democracy.

‘This study is an important contribution to our knowledge of meta-organizations. Trade associations are more dynamic and important than is usually assumed. Dumez and Renou clearly show why trade associations are a theoretical and empirically fruitful area of research with great political significance, not least in global contexts. The theoretical analysis of trade associations as meta-organizations provides important new insights that are tested in an analysis of multi-stakeholder organizations.’

– Göran Ahreme, Stockholm Centre for Organizational Research, Sweden

‘In times when a small number of powerful corporations rule the global economy, it is easy to overlook the fact that firms act collectively through large organizations to protect their interests or define the rules of the game. What are the historical roots of these collective action organizations? What are the political and economic implications of their operations? How do they operate internally? How can we analyze them? Dumez and Renou systematically answer these questions in this groundbreaking study.’

– Marcelo Bucheli, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, US