

**Abstract in English language:**

The statement of Angela Merkel from November 2014 that she would rather see the UK out of the EU than compromise the free movement in the EU (which as at the date of the submission of this dissertation materialized in potential *Brexit*) was one of the reasons which encouraged the author to analyse the reach of free movement rules, more specifically the horizontal direct effect of the Treaty freedoms, in this dissertation.

The author focuses on the issues stemming mainly from the broader topic of the legitimacy of market integration which the author translated into the concept of separation of the regulatory competences between the EU and the Member States and related separation between the Treaty provisions' addressees, namely the Member States and the private entities.

This dissertation focuses on the following research question: *To what extent has the CJEU advanced the European market integration through the development of the principle of horizontal direct effect of the Treaty freedoms?* The starting point after the establishment of the EEC was that the sole addressees of the Treaty freedoms were the Member States whereas the Treaty rules on competition only applied to private entities. However, as is demonstrated throughout this dissertation, it is nowadays generally accepted that this statement does not hold completely true anymore.

Further, a consistent interpretation of European law and legal certainty is, in the author's opinion, important in order to maintain the aforementioned legitimacy and the support for the European Union. The second limb of this research thus deals with the following question: *To what degree has there been a convergence achieved with regard to the Treaty freedoms? Or in other words, under what circumstances can each of the four freedoms be deemed to have horizontal direct effect?* As discussed in this dissertation, there are at least three different self-standing levels (and thus also criteria) of the horizontal direct effect of the Treaty freedoms. This dissertation therefore ultimately proposes a potential alternative as to the unified criterion in this respect by drawing a comparison with the EU competition law.