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To what extent does the multiculturalism of the European Union hamper the development of

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In which types of cases can fundamental rights be applied?

eligible categories of securities;

What problems for the common rules are posed by the fact that they are to be implemented in

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In which types of cases can fundamental rights be applied?

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The continuing headline increase in cross-border legal issues of all kinds raises a host of new issues for private law even as it reconfigures the old issues, both in theory and in practice. In an effort to identify trends and consolidate what we’ve learned in this important area, outstanding legal scholars from nine European countries (plus Australia) convened at the University of Helsinki in August 2006. This volume reproduces, in definitive English texts, twenty-two of the papers presented at that conference.

The issues addressed cluster around four basic questions:

• To what extent does the multiculturalism of the European Union hamper the development of common private law rules?

• Which rules that are specific for a particular state/region/culture need to be preserved?

• To what extent can localism be met with variations in the application of common provisions?

• What problems for the common rules are posed by the fact that they are to be implemented in a multilingual society?

While overarching concerns such as social justice, harmonisation, culture, and diversity pervade all the essays, such crucial practical considerations as legal translation and regulation of advertising are not neglected.

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