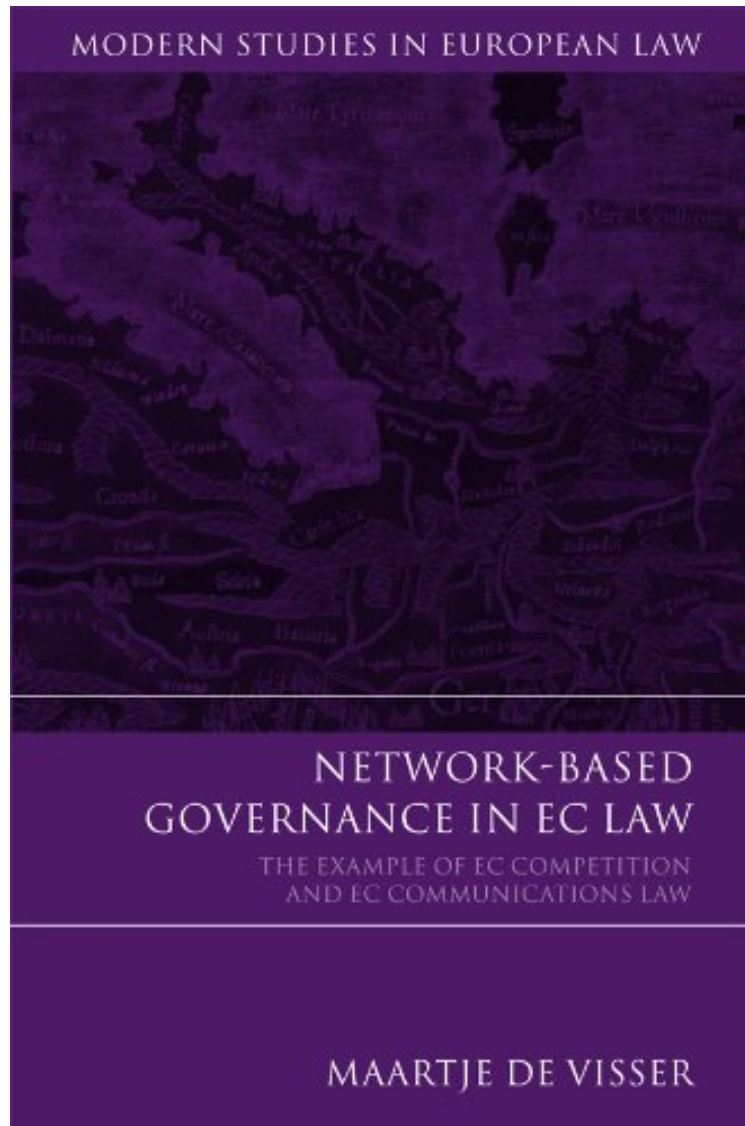


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Network-Based Governance in EC Law: The Example of EC Competition and EC Communications Law (Modern Studies in European Law)

Maartje de Visser

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Maartje de Visser : Network-Based Governance in EC Law: The Example of EC Competition and EC Communications Law (Modern Studies in European Law) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Network-Based Governance in EC Law: The Example of EC Competition

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To strengthen the credibility of the EU and its policies, the European Community is increasingly concerned with effective enforcement of EC law. This book engages in the debate on the better application of European law by offering an integrated analysis of a new institutional arrangement - one that relies on networks grouping the Commission and national administrative authorities. Taking the traditional enforcement paradigms of decentralization, centralization, and agency-based enforcement as starting points, their benefits and downsides are described and critiqued. The author concludes that there is considerable room for improvement. The book then undertakes a comprehensive analysis of the network model to determine its core characteristics and assess its effectiveness. European competition law and electronic communications law are used as case studies because, inter alia, the networks there have developed an adequate level of sophistication. The book also employs a bottom-up approach, considering how four key Member States - France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK - have given effect to the relevant European rules. At the core of the book is a critique of the wider normative attractiveness of the network model. The discussion is kaleidoscopic, engaging with a wide variety of notions including legitimacy, judicial review, subsidiarity, institutional balance, and efficiency. The thrust of the book is that network-based governance deserves careful consideration as the model that is able to mediate the competing concerns of coherence for internal market reasons, and of diversity and respect for local autonomy.

Overall, this well-researched book is written in a very readable style with abundant information throughout the text but also in the footnotes. Above all it provides balanced and challenging food for thought about the changes in governance modes that we can observe in European law administration and incites more generally to reflect on the future institutional developments that network-based governance should or should not take in order to contribute to the effective application of EU law throughout all Member States, and thus proves to be a primary contribution to the design of law in practice. Ida Wendt Common Market Law 2010

About the Author Maartje de Visser took her law degree from Maastricht cum laude, and the M.Jur from Oxford University with distinction. She obtained her doctorate cum laude at Tilburg University, where she is currently working as a Post-Doctoral Fellow with the Tilburg Institute of Comparative and Transnational Law (TICOM), and an Assistant Professor with the Department of European and International Public Law.