On the 5th of October 2005 the University of Barcelona organised a workshop on the application of EC Regulation No. 2201/2003 of 27th November 2003 concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and in matters of parental responsibility (Brussels II bis), which had entered into force in March of the same year. At this workshop different speakers reported on their national systems, namely Peter McElevy for the United Kingdom, Joëlle Long for Italy, Marta Pertegás for Belgium, Claudia Ramser for Germany, Beatriz Añoveros for Spain, Agnieszka Kozakiewicz for Poland and Boel Wermelin-Borjesson for Sweden. Alegria Borrás and the editors delivered presentations of a more general character regarding the unification of the rules for cross-border family relationships as well as the harmonisation of substantive family law in Europe. The workshop was held in the framework of the programme *Uniform Terminology of European Private Law* (HPRN-CT-2002-00229).

Shortly after this workshop the editors decided to expand the project and to include reports from all the Member States in which the Regulation was in force. Unfortunately, the editors were not able to find suitable national reporters in Latvia and Cyprus. Although reports from Hungary and Portugal were agreed upon, they were eventually not delivered.

This book consists of two parts. Part I commences with a general introduction to the Europeanisation of Private International Law in family matters. The second contribution contains the comparative synthesis which the editors drafted concerning the information provided in the national reports. These reports are enclosed in Part II. The editors would like to thank the authors for their very valuable contributions. They provide a reliable insight both into the changes which the entry into force of Brussels II bis has caused in the Member States as well as into the current problems and concerns regarding its impact and application.

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Utrecht/Barcelona, December 2006
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