

Preface

My intention when writing *Polish Commercial Law: An Introduction* was to create a book which would not only be accessible to students reading law or business studies but also to as wide a grouping of people as possible, from legal practitioners to businesspeople. I hope that my book will also be useful to those unfamiliar with law but who wish to familiarise themselves with the legal issues and legal terminology connected with commercial law which they may face during the course of their careers. Poland's accession to the European Union in May 2004 has resulted in an increased demand for information on Polish law in general, and Polish Commercial Law in particular, from throughout the EU. Although a difficult choice, I felt that the English language was most suitable. This proved to be a challenging task, as Polish law is based on the civil law tradition, a system significantly different to the common law system predominant in English speaking countries.

For the sake of manageability, I have divided the book into 14 separate chapters. Chapter 1 includes an introduction to matters connected with Commercial Law and covers, among other things, the definition and development of commercial law, its sources and main terminology. Chapter 2 serves as an introduction to the definition of an entrepreneur under Polish law, this being the key term on which an understanding of commercial law depends. Chapter 3 gives readers an understanding of the meaning and importance of business name and its main principles. Chapter 4 consists of the rules and regulations regarding the registration of entrepreneurs under Polish law. Chapter 5 discusses forms of business organisations in three stages, those being: formation, internal organisations, and the legal aspects of the dissolution of business organisations. Chapter 6 deals with

the legal aspects of foreign entities doing business in Poland. Chapter 7 analyses the scope of Articles 42 and 48 of the Treaty of Rome, and their concentration on the freedom of establishment of companies, and also examines the judgements of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) regarding freedom of establishment. Chapter 8 discusses characteristic features of commercial contracts, while the subject of Chapter 9 is the sale and purchase of goods and its national and international legal aspects. Chapter 10 is devoted to the liability of products, with Chapter 11 serving as an introduction to the law of property and examining transactions involving property in Poland. Chapter 12 is designed to give users of this book an understanding of the purchase and sale of an enterprise, currently extremely important to the Polish market. Chapter 13 discusses the legal aspects of insolvency while, last but not least, Chapter 14 provides some basic information on arbitration.

Polish Commercial Law: An Introduction is not intended as an exhaustive account of the intricacies of the subject. For this reason I have deliberately avoided listing the numerous articles of laws which are applicable. I hope I have achieved my goal of writing an easily useable introduction to this complex subject.

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