



Complying with Europe

EU Harmonisation and Soft Law in the Member States

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What does EU law truly mean for the member states? Do they abide by it or don't they, and why? *Complying with Europe* presents the first encompassing and in-depth empirical study of the effects of 'voluntaristic' and (partly) 'soft' EU policies in the member states. The authors examine ninety case studies across a range of EU Directives and shed light on burning contemporary issues in political science, integration theory and social policy. The book reveals that there are major implementation failures and that, to date, the European Commission has not been able to perform its control function adequately. While all countries are occasional non-compliers, some usually take their EU-related duties seriously (world of law observance). Others frequently privilege their domestic political concerns over the requirements of EU law (world of domestic politics). A further group of countries neglect these EU obligations almost as a matter of course (world of neglect). This innovative study answers questions of crucial importance for politics in theory and in practice, and suggests how implementation of EU law can be fostered in the future.

For further information, please consult our website:

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