

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of EUSA is pleased to announce:

**EUSA Book Prize  
(Best Book on the EU 2005/2006)**

**Gerda Falkner, Oliver Treib, Miriam Hartlapp, and  
Simone Leiber,**

*Complying with Europe.*  
*EU Harmonisation and Soft Law in the Member States,*  
Cambridge University Press 2005

The committee noted that *Complying with Europe* is a milestone in the study of compliance both for its empirical richness and theoretical innovation. The book not only covers compliance with EU (social policy) rules in all member states but, more importantly, it is the only major study (with more than a few cases) that goes beyond the analysis of the transposition of EU law to actual enforcement and application. The study shows that the EU does have a compliance problem. But compliance research has a problem, too. Falkner, Treib, Hartlapp, and Leiber convincingly demonstrate the bias in Commission monitoring and the flaws in compliance studies based on Commission data. On the basis of an impressive body of evidence, they also show the limited explanatory power of the most popular hypotheses on compliance. As an alternative, they put forward an interesting new hypothesis about “worlds of compliance”. In each of these “worlds”, compliance depends on different conditions. In the committee’s view, the book is sure to change our understanding of compliance in the EU and to raise the standards of research in this important field.