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Dimitri Kochenov and Elena Basheska, *Good Neighbourliness in the European Legal Context*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2015. 397 pages. ISBN: 9789004299771. EUR 140.

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Of the vast literature available on the internal and external dynamics of the EU, there has been little attention paid to what being a 'good neighbour' entails. This is surprising, given the original aim of the EU to bring the Member States (who remain 'neighbours' to each other) closer together within an integration process. The same point also applies externally, again despite the explicit name and institutional framework of the European *Neighbourhood* Policy, as one designed to promote cooperation and harmony beyond the EU's borders. As the editors note in the opening chapter, good neighbourliness in Europe appears to be lacking in the context of ongoing events in Crimea, right on the EU's doorstep. Although the UK's EU referendum and the ensuing debate on what kind of 'neighbourly' relationship the UK and EU will have in the future has occurred after the collection was completed, this context would appear to make this collection even more timely in terms of understanding 'good neighbourliness', especially where the internal-external divide is blurred.

This collection is an attempt to delve into the legal implications of 'good neighbourliness' across an impressive range of bilateral and multilateral relationships inside and outside the EU. As is common for legal analysis of works that might be more usually found amongst the volumes by political scientists on EU external relations, the rationale for the book stems from the value-oriented dispositions of the Treaty and public international law. Herein lies the challenge faced by the book: piecing together a wide-ranging set of case studies but lacking a pre-existing, well-defined principle or concept in EU or international law at its core. The central premise is developed from the PhD thesis of Elena Basheska, the second editor of this collection. In her scoping chapter (2) of the book, she takes the reader on a tour of the development of the principle of good neighbourliness in both EU and international law. This does a very good job in providing a coherent core, though the emphasis is squarely on the black letter aspects of the principle as expressed by law, which is not necessarily the focus of many of the following chapters.

The rest of the book is divided into two parts, examining good neighbourliness within the EU (part 2) and beyond it (part 3). In part 2, Kochenov's own chapter shifts analysis away from the search for 'good neighbourliness' in EU law/international law to illuminating 'a number of dark corners of the Union's legal reality' with the aim of 'helping to solve a number of outstanding legal problems'. Kochenov posits that the good neighbourliness is far more anchored in EU law than in international law, which should not be a surprise given that the EU is a process of integration. It is not entirely clear why the principle helps to illuminate the 'dark corners' more than the duty of loyalty, which he says the principle can sit alongside or indeed how it could be deployed. More convincing is when the discussion moves to characterise the principle as one which helps project the values of the Union to others, primarily the newer Member States. In this respect, a link is made between good neighbourliness in the internal and external spheres which helps to distinguish the principle as a

specific European (EU) one. Van Elsuwege's chapter (in part 3) takes the analysis further, by demonstrating through a wide range of examples how the principle in accession negotiations has moved from a 'vague reference' in 1994 to a 'crucial criteria' by tying it to the obligation to promote regional cooperation, which necessarily indicates neighbourly cooperation.

The 12 other chapters, 6 in each part, range from explorations of good neighbourliness in the European Neighbourhood Policy to (very) specific and detailed examinations of how the principle plays out in practice, with a heavy emphasis on the Eastern dimension rather than the Mediterranean. Here, the book finds its real strength, for two reasons. First, the range of authors is impressive and – significantly – includes chapters and insights from scholars based outside the EU in neighbouring countries (e.g. Petrov, Kalinichenko). This enriches the scope of the book and takes it beyond a common trap that external relations-focussed works sometimes fall into, namely overly-focussing on the EU's institutional questions, rather than how policies are received/perceived in the third or 'target' countries. Second, the diversity of the subject matter of the chapters provides a rich empirical understanding of the many different facets of what 'good neighbourliness' entails. These range from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (Ghazaryan), to Gibraltar (Khachatryan), citizenship and Hungarian-Romanian relations (Blokker and Kovács) and the internal electricity market (Vedder). Whilst grouping them together under one principle is an ambitious task, the editors here have nevertheless succeeded in compiling a collection of works which would stand alone as insightful analyses of how the values of the EU are visible or put into practice in the internal and external sphere. Whilst the book does not, in the view of this reviewer, provide a new theoretical basis on which we can understand the EU, this is a timely and commendable collection which enhances the available literature on the subject for political science as well as legal scholars, and those with research interests in the internal and external spheres.