

European Union Criminal Law - Towards a European Criminal Code

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Abstract

EU founding states aimed the establishment of an economic and political organism. Economic and political nature of this *sui generis* organization goes hand in hand with common principles of law. Economic cooperation brought common markets and elimination of borders and this followed with added cross-border criminality. The international criminality requires international measures, but due to the different national legislations, there is a necessity to harmonize them. European Union expectations go beyond simply harmonizing the law. There is a purpose towards the unification of law and the creation of a common criminal law like a European Criminal Code. The Lisbon Treaty creates a favorable ground for such a thing.

This paper aims to make a brief analysis of this issue by addressing the Lisbon Treaty and the innovations he brought in the context of unification of criminal law and the conditions and obstacles that this process has. The questions raised are:

Does the Lisbon Treaty provide the necessary tools for further harmonization of the law? Is it possible to have a European Criminal Code and a European Criminal Procedural Code?

Is it necessary that in applying criminal law, there should be a European political union at a higher level, like a Confederation?

Keywords: European Criminal Code, harmonizing, unification, Lisbon Treaty.

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