1. Origins, institutions, and sources of law

This chapter traces the origins and development of the European Union (EU) and EU law. The European Economic Community (EEC) was created by the European Community Treaty (the EEC Treaty or Treaty of Rome), signed by the six original Member States in 1957. The Treaty on European Union 1992 created the EU, incorporating the EEC, together with two new policy areas, Co-operation on Justice and Home Affairs and Common Foreign and Security Policy. The Treaty of Lisbon amended the two founding Treaties and replaced all references to the ‘European Community’ with ‘European Union’. Together, the two amended Treaties (the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and the Treaty on European Union) constitute the Treaties on which the EU is founded. This chapter also looks at the UK’s withdrawal from the EU under Article 50 (Brexit).
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