This chapter explores the scope and nature of the European Union's legislative competences. Based on the principle of conferral, the EU must act within the scope of competences conferred upon it by the Member States. Three legal developments have significantly undermined the principle of conferral in the past. First, there has been a rise of teleological interpretation. The EU's competences are here interpreted in such a way that they potentially 'spill over' into other policy areas. The second development is the rise of the EU's general competences. The EU enjoys two very general legislative competences that horizontally cut across the various policy titles within the EU Treaties: Articles 114 and 352 TFEU, which concern internal market competence and residual competence, respectively. The third development is the doctrine of implied external powers. The chapter then studies the different categories of EU competences: exclusive, shared, coordinating, and complementary.
3. Union Competences

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