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CONTENTS

GENERAL ARTICLES	9
Peter Tomka, Jessica Howley, Vincent-Joël Proulx International and Municipal Law before the World Court: One or Two Legal Orders?.....	11
Daniel Costelloe, Malgosia Fitzmaurice Interpretation of Secondary Instruments in International Law	47
Barbara Mikołajczyk International Law and Ageism.....	83
Marco Longobardo Some Developments in the Prosecution of International Crimes Committed in Palestine: Any Real News?	109
Oleksandr Zadorozhnii To Justify against All Odds: The Annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the Russian Legal Scholarship.....	139
Stefania Ninatti, Maurizio Arcari Patterns of Democracy in the Case Law of the EU Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights	171
Aleksandra Kustra The Polish Constitutional Tribunal and the Judicial Europeanization of the Constitution.....	193
Elena Carpanelli Can States Withhold Information about Alleged Human Rights Abuses on National Security Grounds? Some Remarks on the ECtHR Judgments of <i>Al-Nashiri v. Poland</i> and <i>Husayn (Abu-Zubaydah) v. Poland</i>	217
Cedric Vanleenhove The Current European Perspective on the Exequatur of U.S. Punitive Damages: Opening the Gate But Keeping a Guard	235

Michał König

Non-State Law in International Commercial Arbitration 265

Konrad Czech

The Distinctive Characteristics of Commercial and Investment Arbitration
 Proceedings: *Lex multiplex, universa curiositas, ius unum?*..... 293

POLISH PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW..... 325

Agata Kleczkowska

Decision of the Supreme Court – Criminal Chamber, Dated October 14, 2015..... 327

BOOK REVIEWS 341

Marcin Kałduński

Przemysław Saganek, *Unilateral Acts of States in Public International Law* 343

Maria Issaeva

Lauri Mälksoo, *Russian Approaches to International Law*..... 351

Maria Eduarda Gonçalves

Patrycja Dąbrowska-Kłosińska (ed.), *Essays on Global Safety Governance: Challenges and Solutions* 359

POLISH BIBLIOGRAPHY OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN
 LAW 2015 365

Dear Readers,

We are happy to present you with the 2016 volume of the Polish Yearbook of International Law. We follow our usual division with respect to its content. The first and main section includes general articles on public and private international law (with one text on European Union law). This section starts with the article co-authored by Judge Peter Tomka, Jessica Howley and dr. Vincent-Joël Proulx, who analyze the approach taken by the International Court of Justice and its predecessor, the Permanent Court of International Justice, to questions of national law. In the second article prof. Malgosia Fitzmaurice and dr. Daniel Costelloe explore the legal principles that govern the interpretation of “secondary” instruments in international law (i.e. written documents adopted by a body empowered by a treaty to take action with respect to the treaty, but which are not themselves a treaty). Prof. Barbara Mikołajczyk investigates the ability of international instruments to limit ageism and protect older persons’ dignity, while dr. Marco Longobardo takes a closer look at the recent developments in the prosecution of international crimes committed in the Palestinian Territory (focusing mainly on the role of the International Criminal Court). In the fifth article, prof. Oleksandr Zadorzhnii critically examines the arguments offered by Russian legal scholars concerning the annexation of Crimea in 2014. Profs. Stefania Ninatti and Maurizio Arcari attempt to identify the key elements of the democratic principle, as described by the judges sitting in Luxembourg and Strasbourg, while dr. Aleksandra Kustra analyzes the process of the judicial Europeanization of the Polish Constitution. Dr. Elena Carpanelli dissects the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in *Al-Nashiri v. Poland* and *Husayn (Abu Zubaydah) v. Poland*, focusing on how the withholding of secret information may infringe on the right to the truth and the State’s duty to cooperate with the European Court of Human Rights.

The last three articles in this section are dedicated to private international law. The first contribution investigates whether, and to what extent, punitive damages judgments originating in the United States can be enforced against the assets of a defendant in a number of selected Member States of the EU (dr. Cedric Vanleenhove). The second contribution analyzes the autonomy of the parties to arbitration, and of the arbitration tribunals themselves, to determine the law applicable to their dispute (Michał König), while the last contribution examines a contemporary international arbitration process in commercial and investment cases, in particular assessing the interplay of common law and civil law elements in the taking of evidence (Konrad Czech).

This section is followed by our usual sections: Polish practice in international law (with a case commentary by Agata Kleczkowska), book reviews, and Polish bibliography in international and European law.

This past year was also important in terms of our development. In 2015 our journal was placed at the top of the list of Polish scientific periodicals by the Polish Minister of Science and Higher Education. In the category of legal journals it was actually ranked as number one.

The Yearbook was also accepted for indexing in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), a new edition of Web of Science™. Content in this index is under consideration by Thomson Reuters to be accepted in the Science Citation Index Expanded™, the Social Sciences Citation Index®, and the Arts & Humanities Citation Index®. The inclusion of the Polish Yearbook of International Law in the ESCI demonstrates our dedication to providing our readers with in-depth scholarly assessments of the most relevant and influential contemporary legal issues in international law.

Karolina Wierczyńska, Łukasz Gruszczyński & Andrzej Jakubowski