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The European Union as International Mediator

Brokering Stability and Peace
in the Neighbourhood

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The idea to write a book about the European Union (EU) as an international mediator first emerged in 2011 when I started my academic career as a research fellow at the Department of Political Science of the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz. Having an academic background in peace and conflict studies, it struck me at that time that there was relatively little scholarly engagement with the EU's involvement as a mediator in conflicts, particularly from a mediation research perspective. Bridging the fields of EU foreign policy studies and mediation research, I started to explore how the effectiveness of EU mediation, and its conditions, can be conceptualised and empirically investigated. Several years—and numerous hours of field research and interviews with policy-makers—later, this book is the final result of this endeavour.

This book would not exist without the great support of a number of individuals. First of all, I would like to thank Arne Niemann who has supported this project from the beginning and has provided insightful comments on various drafts of this book. His advice and encouragement—often coupled with a good dose of humour—as well as his own work on various facets of European integration inspired and shaped my ideas for this project to a great extent. I would also like to thank Wolfgang Wagner, Kai Arzheimer, and Wolfgang Muno for providing important feedback that helped me a lot to further improve my theoretical arguments and empirical analysis. In addition, I am indebted to Hans Joachim Giessmann for his advice on the project and for providing me with the unique opportunity to discuss my empirical

results with his colleagues and mediation practitioners at the Berghof Foundation, whose helpful comments and suggestions are also gratefully acknowledged.

Mediation is a conflict management instrument which requires some degree of secrecy and is often conducted ‘behind closed doors’. Consequently, a substantial part of the empirical data had to be gathered from interviews with policy-makers and practitioners. While they remain anonymous in the book, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the 79 individuals working at various EU institutions, permanent representations and embassies, national ministries, international organisations, think tanks and civil society organisations in Belgrade, Brussels, Berlin, London, Paris, Podgorica, Pristina and Tbilisi. Their willingness to share their views and stories with me was vital for this project.

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Bonn

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABL	Administrative Boundary/Border Line
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
COBERM	Confidence Building Early Response Mechanism
COWEB	Working Party on the Western Balkans Region
CPC	Civil Protection Corps
CSCE	Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
CSDP	Common Security and Defence Policy
DPS	Democratic Party of Socialists/Demokratska partija socijalista Crne Gore (Montenegro)
DS	Democratic Party/Demokratska stranka (Serbia)
DSS	Democratic Party of Serbia/Demokratska stranka Srbije
EC	European Community
EEAS	European External Action Service
ESDP	European Security and Defence Policy
ESS	European Security Strategy
EU	European Union
EULEX	European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
EUMM Georgia	European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia
FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
GID	Geneva International Discussions
IBM	Integrated Border/Boundary Management
ICJ	International Court of Justice
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IPRM	Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism
ITU	International Telecommunications Union

LDK	Liberal Democratic Party/Liberalno demokratska partija (Kosovo)
LSCG	Liberal Alliance of Montenegro/Liberalni savez Crne Gore
LVV	Movement for Self-Determination/Levizja Vetevendosje (Kosovo)
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NS	New Serbia/Nova Srbija
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PSC	Political and Security Committee
SAA	Stabilisation and Association Agreement
SAP	Stabilisation and Association Process
SDP	Social Democratic Party of Montenegro/Socijaldemokratska partija Crne Gore
SNP	Serbian People's Party/Srpska narodna partija
SNS	Serbian Progressive Party/Srpska napredna stranka
SPS	Socialist Party of Serbia/Socijalistička Partija Srbije
UDI	Unilateral Declaration of Independence
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo
UNOMIG	United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
ZOA	Zone of Agreement

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