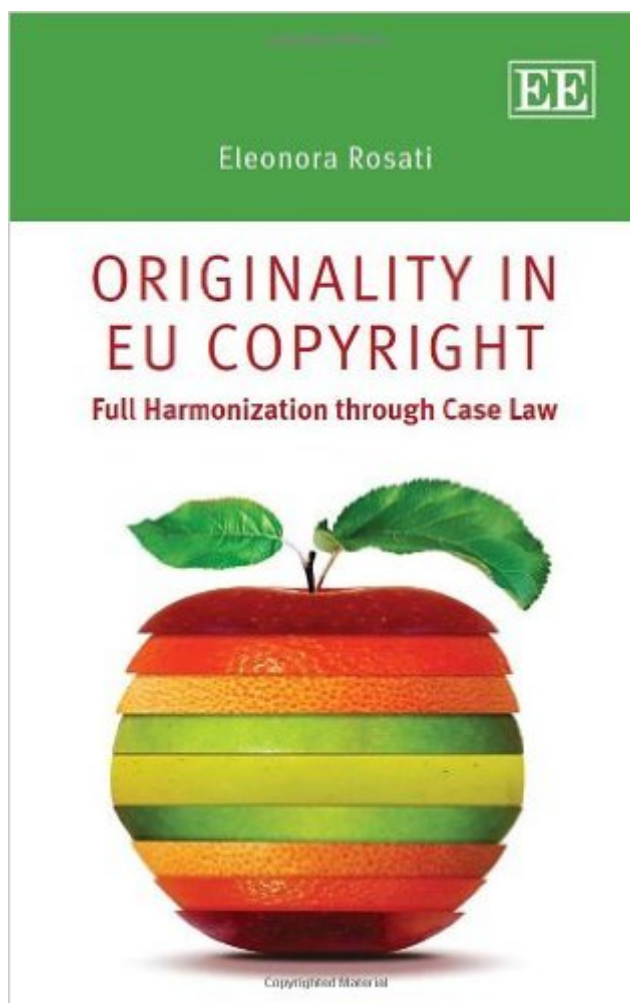


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# Originality In EU Copyright: Full Harmonization Through Case Law



## Synopsis

'This book guides us expertly through the controversial area of originality, a concept which lies at the very foundation of copyright law, but which has never before been analysed in any depth as a topic in its own right. Originality has however now become a hot topic, given the controversial recent case law of the EU Court of Justice on it, and the manner in which some national courts in the EU are seeking to apply it, which makes this book especially timely.' - Trevor Cook, Bird & Bird LLP, UK

Full harmonization of the copyright laws of EU Member States has long been a holy grail for copyright lawyers, but with the reality thus far being only limited harmonization resulting from ad-hoc legislative interventions, there are serious questions over the feasibility and indeed desirability of this goal. Notwithstanding, as this book makes eloquently clear, whilst legislative initiatives have been limited, the CJEU has been acting proactively, establishing through its decisional practice the de facto harmonization of an important principle of copyright: the originality requirement. Through an assessment of the originality requirement, this work guides the reader in interpreting judicial decisions which are of fundamental importance to current and future understanding of EU copyright. The book's holistic approach and methodology takes in analysis of; recent decisions of the CJEU in light of broader EU copyright reform debate; the implications of CJEU case law in Member States which have traditionally adopted different approaches to copyright (eg the UK); the originality requirement in EU, UK and continental Member States; recent UK decisions from an EU perspective; and academic copyright reform projects, both in Europe and the US.

Originality in EU Copyright will appeal to academics, policymakers and EU officers, students, practitioners and in-house counsels.

Contents: Foreword Table of Cases (in Chronological Order) Table of EU/EC/EEC Legislation (in Chronological Order) Table of EU/EC Policy Documents (in Chronological Order) Introduction 1. The Challenges of EU Copyright: 'United in Diversity' - Does it Work? 2. Originality as a Policy Tool: Shaping the Breadth of Protection 3. Originality in a Work, or a Work of Originality: The Effects of the Infopaq Decision 4. The CJEU Goes Ahead: The Decisions in Murphy, Painer, Football Dataco and SAS 5. Challenging the UK Understanding of Copyright: Originality and Subject-matter Categorization at the Forefront of the Debate 6. The Future of Copyright at the EU Level: The Shape of Harmonization Bibliography Index

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## Customer Reviews

MOVING TOWARDS THE INTEGRATION OF EU COPYRIGHT LAW An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers Harmonisation of European Union law: will it ever happen? Specifically, will it ever happen for copyright law? As observed by Edward Elgar, the publishers of this thought provoking book, "full harmonisation of the copyright laws of EU member states has long been a holy grail for copyright lawyers". "The reality," they add is that "only limited harmonization has occurred resulting from ad-hoc legislative interventions". Limited or not, the author Eleonora Rosati is unequivocal in seeing such harmonization as a process which in view of recent developments, will almost inevitably lead to greater harmonization in EU copyright law as time moves on. "We are on the cusp of the convergence of two great trends," she remarks, "the pervading influence of the digital environment and the progression of European integration." Integration of EU copyright law, if it eventually happens, will naturally pivot round the concept of "originality"; originality being the basis of copyright protection and the central core of copyright. In the UK, "originality" refers to skill, labour and effort, and is regarded as somewhat more loosely interpreted term than on the continent, at least that's what legal minds on the continent obviously think, preferring as they do a stricter definition. What is significant about Rosati's book, (which originated as a PhD thesis) is that even though originality lies at the heart of copyright law, it has never actually been subjected to such in-depth analysis as it receives here.

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