Abstract of the book:

“Social Long-term Contracts in European Law”, forthcoming in October 2013, is a book realized by a group of academics experts in the various fields of consumer (credit) law, tenancy law and labour law. In the last years the group has questioned the foundation of the rising European contract law on the classical model of sale that, on the one hand, is based on the paradigm of instantaneous agreement thereby avoiding to deal with all problems arising in the social context of long-term relations; on the other hand, it has failed to acknowledge a social welfarist thinking and a person-oriented approach. Some of these risks could be mitigated by taking into account the paradigm of long-term contracts such as consumption, housing, tenancy, employment and self-employment. These relations are regarded in terms of “life time contracts” that is to say social long-term relations which, with regard to human lives, provide essential goods, services and income opportunities. Here, unlike the paradigm of sale, the contract constitutes a complex long-term relation between the provider and the user of capital, homes and workplace. In this context, there is the need to enrich the classical contract law apparatus in the light of a number of “principles” (the principles identified by the EuSoCo Group) such as, for instance, the human dimension, which is at the core of social long-term relations; the need to protect physical and psychological aspects related to the weaker party; the need to guarantee the access to lifetime contracts that satisfy fundamental life needs; the need to provide rules for the contract’s adaptation to the changes of circumstances and to design termination in such a way as to be transparent, accountable and socially responsible. These main aspects and topics are addressed and developed from the point of view of labour law, tenancy law and consumer law. The book also includes general contributions dealing with the evolution of the European contract law and the need to enhance the moral dimension of contract law from a law & economics perspective.
Programme

11h15 | Welcome
Professor Elise Poillot, University of Luxembourg, Chair of the Europrllex Group

11h30 | Presentation of the book
Professor Luca Nogler, University of Trento

11h50 | Comments from discussants
Professor Hugh Collins, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of Oxford
Professor David Hiez, University of Luxembourg, Head of the Research Unit in Law

12h50 | General discussion

13h10 | Replies and conclusion
Professor Udo Reifner, University of Hamburg, University of Trento

13h30 | Lunch

List of Authors

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